

Chp 11/150

Weekend

FINANCIAL TIMES

Weekend FT
Turkey stirred by
missing son

SECTION II

Royalty - Belgian heirs
and grouches

Golf for all
seasons

A four-page travel special

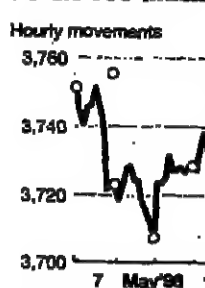
WEEKEND MAY 11/MAY 12 1996

US lifts threat of sanctions against China

Washington last night withdrew its threat to impose sanctions on China for allegedly exporting nuclear weapons-related technology. The US State Department said it had relented because China had agreed not to make such sales in the future and Beijing was expected to make a public statement on the issue. The US claimed China had sold ring magnets to Pakistan for use in equipment that enriches uranium, a key ingredient in nuclear bombs. Washington could have imposed sanctions affecting more than \$10bn in US projects in China, although any sanctions would probably have been targeted at Chinese projects involving nuclear power.

UK shares chase Wall Street higher

FT-SE 100 index



Source: Reuters

Page 17: Low inflation lifts US bonds, Page 3

Australia in guns crackdown: Australian state governments agreed on national gun controls in the wake of last month's Port Arthur gun massacre in which 35 people died. Automatic and semi-automatic rifles and shotguns will be banned and rules for gun-holding tightened. Page 3

Crazy Eddie puts his hands up: Seven years after being fingered for one of the biggest stock market swindles in US corporate history, Eddie Antar, founder of discount stores chain Crazy Eddie, has pleaded guilty. Page 22

Uganda elections: President Yoweri Museveni looked on course for an overwhelming victory in Uganda's presidential election. Paul Ssemogerere, head of the main opposition Democratic Party, rejected the results. Page 2

US wheat crop gloom: American farmers are set to reap their poorest winter wheat crop for 18 years, the US Agriculture Department said. With only 1.8bn bushels in prospect, it will take a big autumn harvest to prevent a surge in food prices.

French police mount raids: French police rounded up 47 suspected Islamic militants thought to be involved in supplying false identity papers. The Interior Ministry said the crackdown was aimed at stopping production of false official papers used by Islamic militants in France.

Hindu party aims to form coalition: The Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata party, the biggest party after India's general election, claimed it would manage to form a coalition government - but the Left Front-National Front alliance said it would also seek to form a majority coalition. P.V. Narasimha Rao yesterday quit as prime minister after his Congress party's dismal showing. Page 2

Armani seeks deal: Italian designer Giorgio Armani was given a nine-month suspended prison sentence and ordered to pay £100m (\$64,000) when a bribery trial of the country's top fashion designers reopened after months of delays.

Search for missing boat: Danish and Polish aircraft joined a Swedish search team looking for a Lithuanian boat which disappeared in stormy weather in the Baltic sea with 12 people aboard.

Gdansk workers protest: Workers at Poland's Gdansk shipyard, home of the Solidarity movement, protested to demand overdue wages and government help to stave off bankruptcy at the state-controlled company.

Dear Michael... German finance minister Theo Waigel has written to Michael Jackson begging the American pop star to reconsider his decision to cancel a concert tour. The letter proposes a change in German tax law that would end discrimination suffered by foreign artists. Page 2

Companies in this issue		
ASN Amro	6, 22	Morgan Crucible
Avon	5	Newcastle United
BET	6	Oxford Molecular
Brightstone	5	Pentol
British Gas	6	Rothschild (NM)
Clarke Nickolls	5	Severn Trent
Credit Foncier	5	Simon Eng
Dasa	2	South West Water
Foster's Brewing	5	St James Beach
Hanson	5	Sumitomo Bank
Hawtill Whiting	5	Tesco
IMI	6	TransCo Intl
Kvaerner	5, 22	UCB
Mildara Blass	5	Wesssex Water

For customer service and
other general enquiries call:

Frankfurt
(69) 15685150

Brussels sets 'lax' limits on petrol additives

Proposals on air quality fall
short of strict US standards

By Bruce Clark in Brussels

The European Commission has proposed rules on petrol additives that fall far short of standards in force in the US and Scandinavia.

A draft directive, prepared by the Commission after three years' research into ways of improving the air quality in European cities, has been denounced by Green campaigners as an ecological step backwards. Commission experts said Europe's air quality crisis was not caused by the same substances as the pollution problem in the US, and so limits on some additives did not need to be as strict.

The directive, still confidential but widely leaked, sets an upper limit in petrol of aromatic, a group of petrochemicals that includes some carcinogens, of 45 per cent, against a maximum in the US and Finland of 30 per cent, and a current EU average of 40 per cent.

The directive would also cut from 2.7 per cent to 2.3 per cent the permitted oxygen content in petrol, disappointing environmentalists who see oxygenates as the best substances to cut emissions of carbon monoxide.

In the US, Finland and Sweden, governments have encouraged the use of oxygenates as a substitute for aromatics.

Ms Heidi Hautala, a Finnish member of the European Parliament, said the directive appeared to reflect pressure from the leading oil companies.

"There is good reason to ask

what pressures made the Commission set standards at such a low level," she said, adding that the European assembly would almost certainly use its power to amend the draft.

Mr Gijb Kuntze, director of the European Federation for Transport and Environment, said the directive was far too lax and he feared the Strasbourg assembly would not change it much.

But Mr Patrick Murphy, the head of a Commission team involved in drafting the directive, insisted that the proposed rules provided a fair balance between cost and environmental safety.

He said that by setting an upper limit of 45 per cent for aromatics, the directive would probably force the average level down to around 37 per cent.

Mr Murphy said high levels of oxygen and lower levels of aromatics were more appropriate in the US, where the most serious pollutant came from carbon monoxide. In Europe, he said, the worst problem came from nitrogen oxide, which could actually be worsened by the US practice of maximising oxygen content.

A spokesman for the European Petroleum Industry Association said carbon monoxide was "not the problem" in Europe. The US policy was "not the most effective way to reach higher air quality standards," he said.

On Monday, British government experts are expected to recommend a tightening of national and European Union controls on particulate emissions from trucks, cars and industry. *Leyla Boulton writes from London.*

Lloyd's raises offer to hard-hit Names

By Ralph Atkins in London

Lloyd's of London last night moved significantly closer to securing its long-term future after unveiling a final, improved out-of-court offer to loss-making and litigating Names.

The revised deal was welcomed by a broad range of Names - individuals whose assets have traditionally supported the insurance market - suggesting the recovery plan would receive the support necessary for its implementation this summer.

That raised the prospect of Lloyd's finally ending most of the legal actions and financial problems which have blighted the market after losses of more than \$3bn in recent years.

One leading Names' representative said: "It is over. The deal is done."

The revised plan is worth an extra £1.2bn (\$1.82bn) to the 34,000 Names. Lloyd's has increased the out-of-court settlement from £2.8bn to £3.1bn. In addition, the UK's Department of Trade and Industry, which supervises Lloyd's, has agreed that only an additional £1bn need be raised from Names to fund its recovery vehicle, Equitas, compared with the expected £1.9bn.

Equitas will take responsibility for billions of pounds of outstanding US asbestos and pollution-related liabilities, creating a clean "new" Lloyd's.

The number of Names who will receive payouts under the plan

Continued on Page 22

Boat people riot against repatriation from Hong Kong



Hong Kong's Whitehead detention camp yesterday saw one of the territory's worst riots as hundreds of Vietnamese boat people, protesting against repatriation, escaped and others took guards hostage and set buildings on fire. The hostages were later freed. Report, Page 2

Sumitomo to cut its lending and asset base

By Gerard Baker in Tokyo

Sumitomo Bank, one of the largest in Japan, signalled the end of an era in Japanese finance yesterday, unveiling a plan to cut its lending to strengthen its balance sheet.

For years, Japanese banks were motivated by an unquenchable thirst for growth, a stance that eventually fuelled Japan's bubble economy, the period of sharp increases in asset prices in the late 1980s.

The policy also led to friction in international financial markets in the 1990s as Japanese banks drove down lending rates in an effort to increase market share. Since the bubble burst in 1991, the top Japanese banks have been burdened with huge balances of non-performing loans, but have until now shied away from serious retrenchment.

Sumitomo said yesterday it aimed to reduce its total assets by up to ¥2,500bn (\$23.8bn), 5 per cent of the total, over the next three years.

"Sumitomo intends to remain a leading bank by the standards of the world's leading financial institutions," a spokesman said. "To achieve that we need to improve our basic capital strength."

The bank gave no details of how it would implement such a sharp cut in its assets, but officials confirmed it was reviewing all its operations, at home and abroad.

Sumitomo has already said it plans to restructure its operations in response to its asset quality problems, a move expected to result in reductions in branches and staff numbers.

In January, the Long Term Credit Bank of Japan said it would cut back its lending, and other smaller banks have retreated from overseas markets. The

14 US troops die in air crash during joint exercise with UK

By Bernard Gray in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina

The largest Anglo-American military operation since the end of the Gulf war began with a tragedy yesterday when 14 US marines were killed in a collision between two helicopters.

The accident happened as a massed helicopter and amphibious landing exercise involving 38,000 US troops and 15,000 British personnel got under way last night.

As the troops swarmed from their landing craft and helicopters towards the North Carolina coast, a US CH-46 "Sea Knight" transport helicopter carrying 14 marines collided with a US AH-1W "Cobra" attack helicopter with a crew of two over a thickly wooded area near the beach landing site at 2am local time.

Pentagon officials said the pilot of the CH-46 helicopter was criti-

cally injured, but that the co-pilot escaped with cuts and bruises.

Wreckage from the accident is spread across a wide area and accident investigators were quickly on the scene to determine the cause of the crash.

Air operations in the exercise were immediately suspended, substantially disrupting the Normandy landing style of operation which has been four years in the planning. As daylight rose on the Carolina coast, flags of the massed armada of ships in the bay were ordered to be flown at half mast as a mark of respect.

The accident happened during intense air and sea traffic movements. To simulate the black-out conditions of a genuine amphibious invasion, all helicopters ferrying troops from the assault ships to the beachhead were being flown without main lights using night-vision goggles.

However, in a sad irony, all the

landing ships and helicopters were displaying small navigation lights in an attempt to prevent exactly the kind of collision which seems to have occurred. The exercise, codenamed Purple Star, is designed to show how closely the UK and US can co-operate to complete even the most complex of missions using air, land and sea forces.

In a battle plan which mimicked the 1945 D-Day landing, British troops attacked two beaches within the Camp Lejeune exercise area, with US forces assaulting two adjacent sites. Combined with attacks by airborne troops, helicopters and special forces, the landing's aim is to secure a bridgehead for a mass invasion. It is the focal point of the month-long exercise.

However, with 38 US ships, led by the nuclear-powered aircraft

Continued on Page 22

easyJet

Amsterdam £35

Nice £49

Barcelona £49

Glasgow £29

Edinburgh £29

Aberdeen £29

Single + Tax, Subject to availability

Atol 4053

01582 44 55 66

Affordable as a pair of jeans

NEWS: INTERNATIONAL

BJP confident on coalition government

By Mark Nicholson in New Delhi

Leaders of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata party (BJP) - which emerged as the biggest party after India's general election - last night claimed they would succeed in forming a coalition government.

However, as an intensive and possibly protracted scramble to form India's next government began in earnest, the Left Front-National Front alliance made a competing claim, saying it would also seek to form a majority coalition.

Leaders from India's main parties converged on Delhi last night for a weekend of internal discussions and negotiations with potential allies after

India's 11th election delivered no one a majority while throwing up a slew of smaller parties without fixed allegiances.

Mr Shankar Dayal Sharma, India's president, is expected to follow convention by inviting the BJP's Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, as leader of the biggest party, to try to form a government - an offer the BJP said it would accept.

Mr P V Narasimha Rao yesterday tendered his resignation as prime minister following the Congress party's dismal showing.

"We expect to be asked by the president to prove our majority," said Mr Pramod Mahajan, BJP spokesman. "He will not take the risk of making

the country go to the polls in a few months or a year - he would rather choose a party that is capable of governing than a hot-potch group of 20 parties which will collapse in no time."

Leaders of the Congress party, which was handed an historic defeat in the election, will meanwhile meet this weekend to discuss the party's stance, with opinion apparently mixed as to whether to try itself to forge a coalition or to sit in opposition.

But with more than two dozen smaller parties set to win up to 90 seats, the components of any eventual coalition remained impossible to predict. It was unclear whether the BJP,

or indeed any grouping, could immediately forge a governing majority of 270-plus seats in the 545-seat Lok Sabha assembly.

Incomplete results suggested Congress would hold only 130-140 seats in the next parliament, overshadowed by the BJP and its allies with a likely 180-190. However, the religion-based nature of the BJP may prove an obstacle to winning support from mostly secular and often strongly anti-BJP factions among regional parties.

Meanwhile, leaders of the LF-NF, a coalition of social justice and communist parties, said it would meet the president today and present its own case to form India's next government.

Front leader Mr Harkishan Singh Surjeet, of the Communist Party of India, claimed the group had secured support from three regional groups with a total of around 30 seats and that further support would follow.

"We will not be able to form a majority but we will be a much bigger group than the BJP," he said.

However, unexpected reverses in north and eastern India looked set to leave the LF-NF combine with a total of only 120-130 seats.

Constitutional lawyers said the president was unlikely to favour the Front's appeal over that of the BJP.

If asked, the BJP would be given three weeks to prove its majority.

Greece threat to EU over Cyprus entry

By Bruce Clark in Brussels

Greece has threatened to trigger an "unprecedented crisis" in the European Union if a promise to start negotiations on the admission of Cyprus is called into question.

The warning came amid signs of mounting pressure on Greece from the EU's leading members to give way in a dispute with Turkey, that is holding up the approval of an Ecu5.4bn (\$4.25bn) aid programme to 12 Mediterranean countries.

Mr Theodore Pangalos, the Greek foreign minister, said several EU members were suggesting entry negotiations with Cyprus be called off in retaliation for Greece's obstruction of EU ties with Turkey.

If the Cypriot negotiations were delayed, Mr Pangalos said in Washington, Athens would initially react by blocking the entry talks with Malta, supposed to start at the same time. "The second step is that Greece will systematically obstruct all external relations of the Union, without exception," he said, in remarks reported by the Greek national news agency and circulated by Greek embassies.

Greece last year lifted a 14-year-old veto on the development of EU relations with Turkey, on the understanding that talks on admitting Cyprus to the EU would begin within six months of the conclusion next year of the inter-governmental

conference on EU reform. Pressure on Athens to unfreeze EU relations with Turkey will come to a head on Monday when Mr Pangalos and the foreign ministers of the EU's 14 other member states gather in Brussels for a two-day meeting.

The ministers are expected to hold consultations with Cyprus on Tuesday but an EU-Turkish ministerial meeting, originally scheduled for the same day, looks certain to be called off for the third time in a row because of Greek-Turkish disagreements.

As a condition for the release of EU credits to Turkey worth Ecu575m, Greece wants Ankara to refer to international arbitration the status of an island where the two countries came close to war in January. Turkey is insisting that the EU credits should be decoupled from its relations with Greece. "It is inconceivable for there to be any financing of Turkey by the European Union as long as that country is issuing threats, blackmail... and territorial claims. If our partners share that position, so much the better for the EU - but if they do not share it, we will move into a period of crisis in the Union as a whole which will be unprecedented."

Apart from the Ecu575m credit, Athens is also holding up the disbursement of the four-year Meda aid programme to 12 Mediterranean countries.

Riot will not stop HK boat people plan

By John Riddling in Hong Kong

The Hong Kong government yesterday vowed to continue repatriating Vietnamese boat people after hundreds rioted and escaped from a detention centre in some of the worst unrest seen in the territory's refugee camps.

The incident, in which prison guards were taken hostage and camp buildings set on fire, fuelled fears of an escalation in disturbances ahead of Hong Kong's handover to China next year.

With about 15,000 Vietnamese still in the territory's camps, the government has sought to step up the pace of repatriation. It faces strong pressure from Beijing to complete the process before Hong Kong returns to Chinese sovereignty in July 1997.

The hostages were freed and police said they were confident of recapturing the escapees from the Whitehead detention camp in the rural New Territories area. However, fears of further incidents were raised by the riot, in which more than 40 inmates and prison staff were injured. The inmates, wielding home-made spears and other weapons, were subdued by riot police using tear gas.

"There is a feeling of desperation," said Ms Pam Baker, a lawyer at Refugee Concern, the lobby group. She said the riots were triggered by plans to move some inmates to prepare them for repatriation.

"It will get worse as 1997 approaches, as the government prepares to repatriate hundreds of people every month," warned one Hong Kong regional councillor.

A senior Chinese official blamed Britain for burdening Hong Kong with the boat people problem. Mr Zhang Junsheng, deputy director of the Hong Kong branch of the Xinhua news agency, said Britain established the territory as a port of first asylum but did not live up to its responsibility of resolving the problems it caused. He reiterated China's demand that the Vietnamese migrants be returned before the handover.

Mr Peter Lai, Hong Kong's secretary for security, said Hong Kong would not be deterred from repatriation. There is support in the territory for the policy, partly because of the costs of the camps. The government said yesterday the Hong Kong government had spent more than HK\$7bn (\$951m) on the Vietnamese migrants since 1979.

Mr Jean-Noël Wetterwald, chief of mission in Hong Kong for the UNHCR, said he was confident the June 1997 target for closing the camps could be achieved. "This is supported by recent trends," he said, citing 2,000 applications for voluntary repatriation by the end of April this year, more than the total for 1995.

THE FINANCIAL TIMES
Published by The Financial Times (Europe) GmbH, Nibelungenplatz 1, 60318 Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Telephone +49 69 156 550. Fax +49 69 156 480. Registered in Frankfurt by J. Walter Berndt, Wilhelm J. Berndt, Colin A. Kennard as co-publishers and in London by David C.M. Bell, Chairman, and Alan C. Miller, Deputy Chairman. Shareholders of the Financial Times (Europe) GmbH are The Financial Times (Europe) Ltd, London and F.T. (Germany) Advertising Ltd, Frankfurt. Shareholder of the above mentioned companies is The Financial Times Limited, Number One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9PL.

GERMANY:
Responsible for Advertising: Colin A. Kennard. Printer: Henschel International Verlagsgesellschaft mbH, Henschel-Kommunikation, Strasse 10, 63526 Neu-Isenburg. ISSN 0174 7363. Responsible Editor: Richard Lambert, c/o The Financial Times Limited, Number One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9PL.

FRANCE:
Publishing Director: P. Marzaglio, 43 Rue de Solles, 75008 PARIS. Telephone (01) 5776 8254. Fax (01) 5776 8253. Printer: S.A. Nord Révis, 1501 Rue de Calais, F-91120 Levallois-Perret. Editor: Richard Lambert, ISSN 1148-2733. Communication Paritaire No 678802.

SWEDEN:
Responsible Publisher: Hugh Cargill 408 018 6088. Printer: AB Kvalitetstryckeriet, Expressen, PO Box 6007, S-550 06, Jönköping.

© The Financial Times Limited 1996. Editor: Richard Lambert, c/o The Financial Times Limited, Number One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9PL.

N-power again splits Germany's body politic

By Wolfgang Münchmair in Frankfurt

This week's riots at a German nuclear storage plant have reopened one of the most divisive political debates of the last 30 years: German politicians are once again fighting over nuclear energy.

The riots, which police described as a resembling a "civil war", have left severe doubts about the viability of the industry in the face of massive public protests. Politicians from all parties have joined to express outrage at the violent scenes from Gorleben, the northern German town whose name has become synonymous with the nuclear protests. But the sense of outrage is overshadowed by the strong and growing political rift over the future of nuclear power.

The Gorleben storage plant saw smaller-scale rioting a year ago, when the first shipment of reprocessed nuclear fuel arrived back on a train from France. This week over 15,000 police were called in to guard the shipment against the demonstrators.

The shipment was the beginning of a long series to which Germany has contractually committed itself. If the protests were to continue on the same level, the state of Lower Saxony could be driven into financial ruin, since it is legally responsible for providing and paying for police protection

every time a shipment arrives. The demonstrators included an estimated 2,000 hardcore agitators, but the majority were law-abiding citizens, including local farmers and pensioners. One frail, elderly woman, who took part in a road block, vowed to "stay until I die". Farmers also joined in, blocking roads with their tractors, although many had earlier been intercepted by riot police.

Opposition to nuclear energy runs deep into the centre-ground of politics. Ms Angela Merkel, the environment minister, offered "immediate political talks" with the opposition parties to re-establish the elusive "energy consensus".

Mr Gerhard Schröder, premier of Lower Saxony and economic spokesman of the opposition SPD, said he also wanted to talk, provided that an eventual pull-out from the nuclear industry was not excluded from the outset. The government has so far declined.

TAX BREAKS SOUGHT FOR FUEL-EFFICIENT CARS

German concerns about higher environmental standards were reflected in tax changes proposed this week by Mr Theo Waigel, the federal finance minister, writes Michael Lindemann in Bonn.

Cars which meet new, lower European standards for exhaust emissions - known as Euro-3 - will get preferential tax treatment until the end of 2002, a year after the new standards are to be introduced across Europe, according to



German riot police guard nuclear waste on its way to Gorleben from France recently

Mr Günter Rexrodt, economics minister, said yesterday that talks about an energy consensus would make sense only if the commitment to nuclear energy was not in question. "We can talk about recycling," he said, adding "we will not allow ourselves to be blackmailed" by the opposition.

Mr Schröder has been less agitated, but he pursues a separate agenda. As premier of the state responsible for the Gorleben plant, he is required

by law to provide and pay for the massive policing. He may be appeased if the burden was more equally shared between northern, southern and eastern states. Most of his party, however, is opposed to nuclear energy on principle. Mr Schröder has pointed out that the conservative premiers of Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg, though supporters of nuclear energy, have both declined to allow nuclear storage plants in their own states.

The arguments in the current debate are a mixture of old and new, focusing on safety, disposal and on economics. The industry is a classic case where the accounting definition of profit differs from the economic definition. The industry is no doubt "profitable" in the accounting sense, since its annual income exceeds the providers' annual costs.

But it may not be profitable under a broader definition, which would also take account of the full economic costs, including the costs of direct and indirect subsidies, which this industry has received over the last few decades, and the cost of policing.

The nuclear industry is probably safe as long as the present government remains in power. A new coalition government, which would most likely include the Greens, would invariably pull the plug.

Dasa warns Chirac over defence reforms

By David Buchan in Paris

Germany's leading military contractor yesterday warned that possible cuts in the French defence procurement programme, to be unveiled in Paris on Monday, could lead to renegotiation of helicopter projects with Germany and jeopardise satellite co-operation.

In an interview yesterday with Les Echos, the French daily, Mr Manfred Bischoff, the head of Daimler Benz Aero-

space (Dasa), also expressed concern about the French government's strategy of focusing on merging French defence companies before seeking new European alliances for 2000.

Paris is trying to push Aerospatiale and Dassault into a single group and build a defence electronics group under a privatised Thomson-CSF. If these moves put France in a dominant position in Europe in all sectors, it will lead more to an isolation of France than to

Europe-wide restructuring," Mr Bischoff said.

The Dasa president's warning came as President Chirac held a working dinner last night in Bonn with Chancellor Helmut Kohl, at which the main item on the menu was defence. German ministers and industrialists complained at not being properly consulted before Mr Chirac announced in mid-February defence reforms including phasing out military conscription and tighter

procurement constraints.

France's new "military programme law", setting out detailed procurement plans for 1997-2002, is already set and ready for cabinet approval and publication on Monday. But the purpose of Mr Chirac's visit to Bonn is to make a greater show of consultation than he did in February, and to reassure Mr Kohl that the primacy of France's co-operation with Germany in defence, as in all other fields, is unshaken.

French defence officials refused to comment yesterday on whether their new procurement plan entails a cutback in French orders for the Tiger anti-tank helicopter which Aerospatiale is making in partnership with Dasa through their Eurocopter joint venture.

But Mr Bischoff warned yesterday that "if Germany orders many more Tigers than France, then it would be normal to revise the work shares to Germany's benefit".

Thai opposition discloses bank loans to ministers

By Ted Bardacke in Bangkok

Thailand's central bank has suffered a blow to its credibility as details of financial irregularities at a midsize commercial bank, including loans secured without collateral to members of the Thai cabinet to help them in corporate take-overs, were revealed during a no-confidence debate in parliament.

The low quality and high risk loans at the Bangkok Bank of Commerce (BBC), totalling 47 per cent of the bank's assets, were discovered by the Bank of Thailand during its routine audits. But authorities did little more than send letters to the bank requesting that lending practices be revised.

Those requests were repeatedly ignored by BBC management. The central bank has recently attempted to clean up practices at BBC by injecting liquidity into the bank and demanding managers be replaced, rather than by exercising full authority and simply taking it over.

These attempts have also been rebuffed, most recently on Wednesday when a faction of the BBC board loyal to current management stayed away from a scheduled board meeting, thus preventing a quorum that would have initiated a management shakeup. "We prefer to pursue the issue in a co-operative manner," said a Bank of Thailand official.

Details of BBC's operations and the Bank of Thailand's apparent laxity were itemised in more than 400 pages of confidential central bank documents presented to the Thai parliament by the opposition Democrat party.

The evidence is unlikely to bring about the downfall of the coalition government of Mr Banharn Silpa-archa. But it will increase pressure on the prime minister to remove two cabinet members - Mr Newin Chidchob, deputy finance minister, and Mr Suchart Tanchanok, deputy interior minister - who received poorly collateralised loans from the bank, as well as Mr Surakiat Sathirathai, finance minister, who supervises the central bank.

According to the central bank documents, beneficiaries of loans now considered doubtful included Mr Adnan Khashoggi, the Saudi arms dealer, to take over Jalagranth Cement and the late Mr Rajan Pillai, the Indian-born fugitive businessman who was facing fraud charges in Singapore before his death, to take over Thai Agri Foods.

Bank of Thailand documents also said BBC's profit figures for 1994 and 1995 were "doctored". Reported profits of Bt1.14bn and Bt1.55bn (\$45.6m and \$68.1m) for those years should actually have been losses of Bt380m and Bt1.1bn respectively.

EU bid to prise open South Korean telecoms market

By Caroline Southey in Brussels

The European Commission has lodged a complaint with the World Trade Organisation in an attempt to force open South Korea's telecommunications market.

The Commission has told the WTO that South Korea is denying EU exporters access to its telecommunications market through a series of measures designed to protect the domestic telecoms industry.

As a result, the Commission said, EU exporters were losing \$90m a year. The decision reflects the Commission's determination to achieve better market access for EU companies in foreign markets. Earlier this year Sir Leon Brittan, the EU's chief trade negotiator, said the EU would pursue a more aggressive

market-opening strategy, in particular by using WTO procedures.

"After a third round of unsuccessful negotiations with Korea, the Commission has decided to try to open the market using multilateral trade rules," a Commission official said.

The Commission said that while Korean telecoms infrastructure and services had been gradually liberalised, the Korean market for network equipment had gone in the opposite direction.

It said the EU case was based on the requirement under South Korean law that the main national operator, Korea Telecom, buy from Korean manufacturers whenever possible. There were clear indications that the second operator, Dacom, applied a similar purchasing policy and that domestic companies enjoyed "substantial research and development subsidies".

Rock on, Michael... Yours, Theo Waigel

By Wolfgang Münchmair

Mr Theo Waigel, the German finance minister, has written a letter to Michael Jackson, the American pop star, begging him to reconsider his decision to cancel a concert tour.

The letter, addressed to "Dear Michael Jackson...", is one of the most unusual documents ever to have originated from the German finance ministry. But it is also an important policy document because it contains a proposed change in German tax law - ending the tax discrimination suffered by foreign artists.

The letter follows Mr Jackson's decision this week to cancel the German leg of his tour because under the 1996 German tax law he would have faced a tax bill bigger

than the tour's income. This is because foreign artists can at present not offset production costs against tax.

Yet in his letter Mr Waigel wrote: "You should reconsider your decision to cancel concerts in Germany. At least you

have no reason to, from a tax point of view. If the costs of your concerts are higher than 50 per cent of your income, you will be able to file a normal tax declaration instead of paying a lump-sum tax. This is precisely my proposal for a change in the tax law."

Mr Waigel's proposal would change one of the most contentious parts of tax rules, whereby foreign artists are put on a special tax regime. Artists with especially high production costs have been facing strong discrimination.

As a consequence of this letter, Mr Jackson will be able to join the ranks of only a small number of individuals who could legitimately claim to have received a good deal from Mr Waigel.

If Mr Jackson becomes resident for tax purposes, he will be able to share many delights of ordinary German taxpayers. For example, he will be able to pay the "solidarity" surcharge tax to help rebuild eastern Germany.

Mr Waigel promised Mr Jackson "your tax burden would be no higher than that of tax payers with the same income, who live in Germany".

The minister added that many German fans "spend a lot of money to hear you sing and buy your CDs". Interviewed on German television, Mr Fritz Rau, Mr Jackson's concert manager, said that he expected Mr Jackson to tour Germany after all, as long as there was legal certainty about the singer's tax position.



De Klerk seeks lifting of exchange controls and speedy privatisation programme

Chief Buthelesi heads the Inkatha Freedom party (IFP), which will shortly be the sole coalition partner of the African National Congress, following the decision of the National party to leave the government.

"This constitution contains none of the guarantees and checks and balances necessary to prevent establishment of autocracy and totalitarianism," he wrote in a letter to a national newspaper.

"This is a treacherous constitution written in a seductive language which will not protect the people of our country from the present and future evils of government."

But Mr Ziba Jiyane, the secretary general of the IFP, said the party would not take a snap decision to follow the National party.

Mr F W de Klerk, National party leader, yesterday resumed attacks on the constitution, despite having voted for it.

He claimed it showed too little appreciation for fiscal discipline and macro-economic stability which were keys to investment and sustained growth. As leader of the opposition, he would demand rapid dismantling of exchange controls, and a dynamic privatisation programme.

"On issues which affect all South Africans, such as our moral and ethical basis, we are also deeply disturbed by some aspects of the new constitution," added Mr De Klerk.

The rand continued its recovery against the dollar yesterday, allowing Mr Chris Stals, governor of the Reserve Bank, to announce there would not be an immediate increase in bank rate. The currency gained R0.09 against the dollar to close in Johannesburg at R4.41.

Mr Thabo Meki, the deputy president, said President Nelson Mandela would soon announce replacements for the six National party members leaving the cabinet on June 30.

"The president is concerned that whoever takes over should have ample opportunity to understand the present ministers," said Mr Meki.

He added that Mr Mandela was also considering restructuring the government, and this could lead to a reduction in cabinet posts.

Mr Mbeki disagreed with the assertion that the presence of Mr De Klerk in the government had inspired international confidence. "I do not believe that investors around the world have any doubts about the ANC's ability to govern," he said.

Mexican cement group and Canadian mining company hit by new measure US to bar executives with Cuba links

By Nancy Dunne in Washington and Richard Adams in London

Senior business executives and their families are to be barred from entering the US if their companies have traded using property confiscated from US nationals in Cuba.

US government officials say guidelines will be released within the next few weeks detailing who is liable to be denied entry for "trafficking" under the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act.

Title IV of the act, known as Helms-Burton after its congressional sponsor, gives the state department the power to deny entry to any "corporate officer, principal, or shareholder with a controlling interest" of any organisation which has been involved in trading or investing in confiscated property since March 12, when the act came into force. Title IV also bans entry to the "spouse, minor child, or agent" of those barred.

Officials declined to comment upon the number of companies involved, but it could run to several hundred. The largest include Cemex, a big Mexican cement manufacturer, and Sheritt, the Canadian mining company that operates a nickel plant in Cuba.

Officials in Brussels said that more than 200 joint ventures had been identified as having benefited since March from investment in Cuba, but that it was difficult to gauge how many of them were linked to former US interests.

US officials admit the state department will need to be careful to define the scope of those involved. "Agent" could include lawyers or accountants acting for a corporation or its executives.

The state department is compiling a list of joint ventures

with Cuban and foreign companies from a range of sources, including embassy intelligence and public information. The list will be checked against the 5,911 property claims against the Cuban government by US citizens, finalised in 1972. Officials say about 800 of those claims are relevant under the act.

Those identified as having trafficked will be notified by mail and given 45 days notice of their exclusion. Those excluded can appeal to the state department. Exclusion will not be permanent, and will be dropped as soon as the party ends its use of the property.

Under another provision of the law, US citizens or companies can sue foreign companies profiting from property or investments they once owned which were confiscated by Havana. This provision can be waived by the US president for six month periods, beginning on July 15. The president can not waive the Title IV provisions barring individuals and their families from entering the US.

The act was approved by President Bill Clinton in the aftermath of Cuba's shooting down of two US civilian planes earlier this year. With the US

presidential elections in November, Mr Clinton is sensitive to the need for expatriate Cuban support and funding in crucial states such as Florida.

The act has already received fierce criticism from US trading partners, including the European Union and Britain, infuriated by the "extraterritorial" application of the law. The EU has demanded consultations under the World Trade Organisation and a number of countries have enacted "blocking" statutes to forbid co-operation with the US law.

Mr Ian Taylor, the UK trade and industry minister, last week bemoaned the scope of the law which could "ban a five-year-old child from visiting Disneyland if one of its parents was linked to a company potentially affected by the legislation."

Mr Klaus Kinkel, Germany's foreign minister, has warned the US could face retaliatory measures from the EU if third countries suffered. He said the EU would not allow Washington to penalise third parties for doing business with Cuba.

"The European Union would have to consider countermeasures that would in turn have a negative effect on American trade and investment interests in Europe," Mr Kinkel said.

Gore leaves Dole spinning in the wind

By Jurek Martin in Washington

The US presidential election may now be in its "phony war" phase, but President Bill Clinton's administration is rapidly refining its tactics against Senator Bob Dole, the presumed Republican candidate.

At its heart, it emerged yesterday, will be a concerted onslaught of damning with faint praise.

A classic demonstration was provided in the immediate wake of Senator Dole's sharp critique of US Asian policies on Thursday. This was a speech notable for the use of such mild expressions as "double-talk, incompetence, inconsistency, vacillation, and weakness."

Within an hour of Mr Dole sitting down, the call came out from the White House inviting a small group of reporters to a "round table" on foreign policy with Vice President Al Gore, designated spin master *du jour*.

The Gore message was that the Clinton camp was "grateful" for the "wisdom" the majority leader had just shown. He had nothing but nice things to say about Mr Dole's endorsement of Mr Clinton's determination to renew Most Favoured Nation trading

status for China and to threaten tough retaliation against Chinese violation of intellectual property rights.

The backs were a little non-plussed, but only when they pressed did Mr Gore begin to become a little political himself. "I think he showed courage in the middle of a campaign in rejecting the growing forces of isolationism and know-nothingism in the Republican Party," he said.

This neatly encapsulated Pat Buchanan, the rightwing polemicist who would do China no favours at all, and other conservatives in Congress prepared to vote against MFN. Mr Gore, of course, conveniently did not mention the opposition of liberal Democrats.

He then twisted the knife a little further by suggesting that Mr Dole either was unfamiliar with, or chose not to reveal his knowledge of, closer US co-operation over ballistic missile defences with Japan, Taiwan and South Korea.

This, reading from a crib-sheet, he provided in numbing acronymic detail comparable to Mr Dole's long litany of what the US should be doing militarily to help its Asian friends. In any case, Mr Gore went on, it was "no secret"

that many Republicans wanted to reopen "the full-blown star wars approach" of the Reagan era, at home or overseas.

As an exercise in spin, it was artful. It directly addressed Mr Dole's assertion that there were "vast and fundamental" foreign policy differences between Mr Clinton and himself by highlighting where they agreed.

It also sought to exploit some patent divisions inside the Republican Party between moderates and conservatives.

Not that he needed to do much of the latter given what Republicans have been saying about each other this week. Senator Al D'Amato of New York has taken to condemning the "philosophical ayatollahs" who control the House, while Congressman Peter King from the same state described its leadership, including Mr Newt Gingrich, the Speaker, as "anti-union hillbillies".

All this may mean nothing come November, but as a training exercise for the main event it shows the Democrats in far better trim than the opposition.

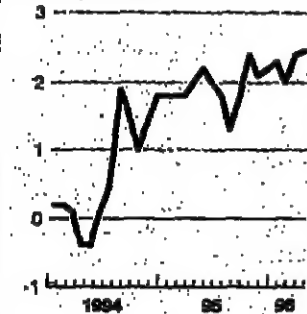
But Mr Gore might find it more strenuous if Gennady Zyuganov turns out to be the next president of Russia.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS DIGEST

Low inflation lifts US bonds

US producer prices

Annual % change



Source: Datastream

By late morning the benchmark Treasury 30 year bond had gained more than a point, pushing the yield down to 6.913 per cent. The small increase in core producer prices was seen as reducing the risk that the Federal Reserve would raise short-term interest rates at its next policy meeting on May 21.

Michael Prouse, Washington

Japanese budget is passed

Japan's parliament yesterday approved a ¥75,000bn (\$715bn) national budget, but the debate over its controversial centrepiece, a planned bailout of the country's bankrupt housing loan companies, seems set to continue for weeks. The upper house of parliament approved the budget despite protests by opposition members. Passage of the bill had been held up for six weeks by the battle over the bailout.

However, the proposal must surmount several more hurdles before it becomes law. The budget measure itself states that the money is to be released only after the establishment of a "framework" for dealing with the overall problems of the housing lenders, known as *jusen*.

Gerard Baker, Tokyo

KLM objects to Air France aid

Dutch airline KLM has joined SAS and Lufthansa in complaining to the EU Commission that Air France is using state aid money to fund cuts in air fares. The complaints add to the doubts over whether Mr Neil Kinnock, the EU transport commissioner, will next month allow Air France to receive a third and final state aid package of FF20bn (\$3.9bn).

Mr Kinnock is assessing whether Air France has met the conditions laid down when the second tranche of aid was approved earlier this year. These included a restructuring of the airline, but there are doubts about whether the airline has restructured enough.

Caroline Southey, Brussels

Geelong port to be privatised

Australia's state of Victoria is to sell Geelong port facilities to a consortium comprising TNT, the Australian transport group, and several international and domestic institutions, for A\$50.5m (US\$40.4m).

TNT, which has extensive road and rail operations in Australia, will become the port's new operator. Its fellow investor will be Infrastructure Investment Corporation, formed to invest in the growing number of private sector infrastructure projects in Australia.

Nikki Tait, Sydney

Australia bans automatic guns

Australia's eight states and territories yesterday agreed a ban on automatic and semi-automatic rifles and shotguns. They will also adopt a uniform, national approach to the registration and licensing of guns. The agreement follows public outrage at the Port Arthur shootings last month, in which 35 people were killed in Australia's worst mass shooting by a single individual.

Nikki Tait

COMPAGNIE DE PARTICIPATIONS FINANCIERES (LUXEMBOURG) S.A.

Registered office: 204 Route d'Arion, L-8010 Strassen

R.C. Luxembourg B 28 500

The shareholders are invited to attend the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING which will be held at the Hotel L'Oliver, 140A, Route d'Arion, L-8008 Strassen at 2.00 pm, on 20th May 1996, with the following agenda:

1. To receive the report of the Directors for the year ending 31st December 1995.
2. To receive the report of the Auditor for the year ending 31st December 1995.
3. To approve the annual accounts for the year ending 31st December 1995.
4. To approve the appropriation of the results, to declare a dividend of DEM 0.24 (24 Francs) per share and to fix the date of payment.
5. To grant discharge to the Directors with respect to their duties during the year to 31st December 1995.
6. To grant discharge to the Auditor with respect to their duties during the year to 31st December 1995.
7. To increase the number of Directors to 4 (four).
8. To approve the appointment of Mr Andrew McGivern as a Director of the Company.
9. To receive a report on the management policies of the Company and to adopt the same insofar as may be appropriate.
10. Any other business.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The T5 Inquiry.

Why it shouldn't be interminable.

The proposed Terminal 5 at Heathrow is one of the largest planning applications ever.

It also has the potential to be costly and long winded.

To avoid this BAA called in McKenna & Co to represent them in the public inquiry.

We've successfully represented BAA before, at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted.

And we are hoping to help achieve a happy landing yet again.

Today, more than ever, our practice of enterprise is successfully at work on large and complex schemes, transactions and disputes.

For example we recently represented the consortium which will build and operate one of the first privately financed prisons in this country.

And in the UK rail privatisation we advised the successful bidder for the largest of three rolling stock leasing companies – a £672m transaction.

For a more enterprising approach to your own legal needs simply contact Robert Derry-Evans, Managing Partner, on 0171 606 9000.



The Practice of Enterprise

OFFICES IN LONDON, ALMAY, BRUSSELS, DUBLIN, HONG KONG, MOSCOW, PRAGUE, TASHKENT, WARSAW AND WASHINGTON DC ASSOCIATED FIRMS IN AUSTRALIA, DENMARK, GERMANY, JAPAN AND SWEDEN.

NEWS: UK

'We are working seven days a week, 12 hours a day to keep pace with the rise in orders'

Building materials exports up 16%

By Andrew Taylor,
Construction Correspondent

British exports of building materials jumped by more than 16 per cent to a record £3.52bn (\$5.35bn) last year, environment department figures showed yesterday. That follows a 14 per cent increase the previous year.

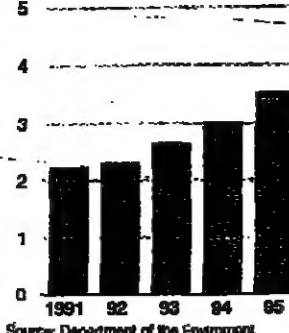
The latest trade statistics for the industry illustrate the extent to which manufacturers of building components have become increasingly competitive over the past five years as companies have shed labour and raised productivity to combat a weak domestic market.

The fall in the value of sterling since Britain's withdrawal from the European Exchange Rate Mechanism also has aided competitiveness. As a result the annual value of building material exports since 1991 has risen by more than 55 per cent.

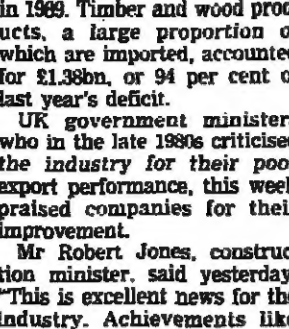
The trade deficit on building materials, following the latest export boost, narrowed by more than 15 per cent last year to £1.46bn, which was almost half the level of 2.84bn reached

Construction trade flow

Exports (£bn) at current prices



Imports (£bn) at current prices



Source: Department of the Environment

in 1999. Timber and wood products, a large proportion of which are imported, accounted for £1.38bn, or 94 per cent of last year's deficit.

UK government ministers who in the late 1980s criticised the industry for their poor export performance, this week praised companies for their improved performance.

Mr Robert Jones, construction minister, said yesterday: "This is excellent news for the industry. Achievements like

this do not just happen overnight. I would like to pay tribute to the hard work and determination shown by individual companies, many of them relatively small."

The improvement in manufactured products and components is most startling. A trade deficit of almost £200m in 1989 was turned into a surplus of almost £78m last year according to the department.

Mr John Gill, director of overseas trade for The

National Council of Building Material Producers said yesterday: "Last year's performance was particularly impressive as many of the important continental European markets were sluggish last year."

"British companies, however, have been very successful in increasing exports to the rapidly growing construction markets in south-east Asia."

Rawell, a company in north-west England producing waterproofing systems for tunnels, the petrochemical industry and for irrigation ponds, is selling to Japan, Malaysia and Hong Kong. It has increased its overseas order book from £500,000 to £2m in the first four months of this year.

Mr Bryan Flynn, chairman of the family-owned business, said: "British companies are now working harder to win export orders. We are only a small company but we have had to go out to these countries and sell ourselves hard to win these contracts. We are now working seven days a week, 12 hours a day to keep pace with the rise in orders."

The biggest turnaround has occurred in structural steel which last year generated a trade surplus of £255m compared with a deficit of £27m in 1989. Recent export successes have included contracts to provide steel frames for new airports at Hong Kong and Kansai near Osaka in Japan, both won by Watson Steel, a subsidiary of Amec, the UK construction group.

Other products reporting trade surpluses last year include wallpaper (£18m) and paint and varnish (£8m). Even clay bricks, sold mainly to Japan, achieved a small surplus of £2.3m. More worrying were continuing trade deficits on central heating boilers (£79m) and radiators (£24m).

The figures however do not reveal that subsidiaries of British companies, Caradon and Blue Circle, are estimated to control more than a third of the European radiator market while Blue Circle and Hepworth, another British group, control about a quarter of the European central heating boiler market.

Ticket row highlights malaise in soccer

Financial Times Reporters

Today's Cup Final between Manchester United and Liverpool at Wembley Stadium in London should have capped a glorious season for English soccer and the Football Association, which runs the national game.

But the good news about the English game has been overshadowed by a row over the organisation's distribution of tickets for Euro 96, the biggest sporting event in the UK for 30 years.

The row has brought to the surface deep-seated tensions in the highest ranks of the FA. It has provoked the resignation of its commercial director, Mr Trevor Phillips, and undermined the partnership between the football authority and the police. Many fear this could threaten the safety and security of next month's competition.

The FA and the police were yesterday at loggerheads about who had said what to whom and why before a series of raids carried out last month with the aim of stamping out alleged illegal ticket sales. Behind the raids lay serious concerns that any breakdown in the official ticket distribution system could play into the hands of hooligans.

Inquiries following the raids unearthed details of ticket sale deals allegedly struck between Mr Phillips and hospitality firms which were not on an initial list of two authorised corporate hospitality agencies originally provided to the police by the FA. Mr Phillips yesterday denied authorising the transfer of tickets to any companies other than the two authorised by the FA to deal with hospitality packages in Euro 96 - Keith Prowse and Sportsworld.

On Thursday this week, the police said they had been misled by the FA about the rules governing sales. Yesterday, the police said they had dropped proceedings against individuals at three companies - other than Keith Prowse and Sportsworld - which had claimed that Mr Phillips had authorised hospitality packages.

The raids by police took place after officers were given information by the FA that there were only three "legitimate agencies for the sale of tickets" for Euro 96. The third authorised company is Synchro Systems, responsible for distribution.

The FA told the police that anybody other than these three "would have been allegedly breaking the law". But Scotland Yard was then told by the FA that there could be as many as 30 outlets through which tickets could "have been legitimately made available to the public". Some of the 30 were subject to the police raids last month.

The ticket fiasco has focused attention on concerns that the FA seems unable to resolve the tension between the increasing commercial potential of football and the bureaucracy the FA has become.

Mr Phillips personified the sharp commercial edge of the FA, responsible for bringing in sponsorship to the FA Cup and the English national team. Mr Phillips' departure leaves untouched the bureaucracy which critics say lie behind FA mistakes such as the cumbersome handling of the appointment of the new England manager.

UK NEWS DIGEST

Brussels steps up ERM pressure

The European Commission stepped up pressure on the UK to rejoin the European exchange rate mechanism (ERM). Mr Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the European commissioner for economic and monetary affairs, said in London it was "clear" from the Maastricht treaty that any country wishing to join a single currency in 1999 needed to have been a member of the ERM for the two preceding years.

This puts him at odds with Mr Kenneth Clarke, the chancellor of the exchequer, who is convinced that the condition no longer applies following the UK's withdrawal from the ERM in 1992. Mr Clarke and Mr John Major, the prime minister, are both convinced that the UK still has the right to opt in to a single currency. They have also said repeatedly that there is no question of sterling re-entering the ERM, in the knowledge that any other course of action would split the Conservative party.

Robert Peston, Political Editor

Bondholders issue writs



THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

THE BARINGS COLLAPSE

Bondholders in Barings, who lost their investments when the UK merchant bank crashed, issued writs claiming more than £100m (£152m) in compensation from three stockbrokers and a dozen former Barings directors. The main targets of the High Court action in London are Amro; Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the investment banking arm of Barclays Bank; and Cazenove & Co, the independent stockbroker. In its statement of claim, the bondholders' action group says the three stockbrokers gave misleading information about Barings' business when in January 1994 they raised £100m through an issue of bonds for the investment bank.

But the bondholders have also dealt a sideways blow to Mr Peter Baring and Mr Andrew Tuckey, chairman and deputy chairman of Barings before it collapsed, and to other former members of the main board at the time of the issue. The bondholders had earlier announced their intention to sue but were only on Thursday night given leave to do so by Ernst & Young, the administrators acting on behalf of all the creditors of the failed group.

The bondholders are maintaining that Barings, and its advisers and brokers, failed to disclose that the proceeds were to fund the speculative derivatives trading which brought Barings down in February 1995. At the time of the bond issue, Mr Nick Leeson, the derivatives trader at the heart of Barings' collapse, had already made hidden losses of £22m and he dropped a further £23m in the first six months of 1994. Executives at ING Barings, the investment bank created after International Nederlanden Groep rescued Barings, said the action group's claim was eroding sympathy for the bondholders.

Nicholas Denton, Financial Services Staff

'Victory' claimed in BCCI case

The Bank of England, the UK central bank, claimed victory in a long legal dispute with the liquidators of Bank of Credit and Commerce International. A High Court judge ruled in London that the central bank could not be held liable for "misfeasance" - conduct worse than negligent - in carrying out its duties as a regulator of BCCI and that the Bank could not have caused the losses of BCCI's depositors. The judgment confirmed a provisional ruling given in April. The judge added, however, that he would hear an amended claim, but only in certain circumstances. For example, it must not be frivolous or vexatious. The Bank said it was "very pleased". The liquidators at accountants Deloitte & Touche declined to comment.

Jim Kelly, Accountancy Correspondent

Athletics body predicts profit

The British Athletic Federation is unlikely to return to profit this financial year after suffering a deficit in its operating budget for last year, said Mr Peter Radford, executive chairman. The BAF suffered a pre-tax loss of £256,000 (£398,120) last year. £108,000 of which was spent on legal fees relating to drug abuse cases. The athlete Diane Modahl is seeking £380,000 in damages and loss of earnings after successfully overturning a four-year ban after being accused of using performance-enhancing drugs.

Mr Radford expressed concern that the federation's broadcasting contract with the UK commercial terrestrial television network, worth £1.8m a year over two years, may not be renewed when it ends this year. "Ten years of television money has left the sport over-reliant on such a precarious source of income," he said.

Richard Liston, London

Nuclear assets written down

The assets of British Energy, the company created for the privatisation of the nuclear industry, have had to be written down by £2bn (£3,040bn) because of the reduced prospects for nuclear power. Mr Tim Eggar, the energy minister, said yesterday that the board of British Energy had decided to write off £2.0bn of the £3bn cost of building Sizewell B, Britain's newest nuclear power station completed only last year. This was because Sizewell B was costed on the assumption that it would be the first of several similar reactors. But following last year's decision not to build any more nuclear power stations, Sizewell's first-of-its-kind costs had to be written off.

The board has also decided that British Energy's assets are generally overvalued in light of lower-than-expected electricity prices and the ending of the premium price paid for nuclear electricity. This has led to a further write-down of £1.2bn. The write-downs, which Mr Eggar said were a technical accounting matter which would not affect the sale value of British Energy, will put the company's assets at about £2bn.

David Lascelles, Resources Editor

Fishermen are offered \$20m for complying with EU curbs

By Deborah Hargreaves
in London

The government is offering to pay fishermen a total of £13m (£19.5m) this year if they agree to scrap vessels and stop fishing. The offer marks a final attempt to meet European Union targets for cutting fleet capacity.

The UK faces the prospect of being prosecuted by the European Commission at the end of the year for failing to shed 19 per cent of its fishing capacity. So far, the British fleet has been cut by 7 per cent since 1992 when the commission made it compulsory to impose reductions.

"The problem for the UK is that it has a backlog from previous capacity-cutting rounds and the necessary measures have not been put in place," a commission official said. Ms Emma Bonino, the EU fisheries commissioner, urged the UK in March to catch up with its capacity reductions.

UK fishermen say the problem is exacerbated by ships fly-

ing non-UK flags buying British licences in order to gain access to UK fish quotas. "Other member states are exporting their over-capacity to us," said Mr Barrie Deas, chief executive of the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations.

Mr Deas said that boats owned outside the UK represent about 19 per cent of UK fleet capacity - the precise amount the UK needs to cut. Part of the reason fishermen were not coming forward to scrap their vessels was because non-UK-flag ships were buying up boats and licences, making it more lucrative for fishermen to sell than decommission.

Mr Deas said, however, the UK farming and fisheries ministry blamed the over-capacity problem on the fishermen's success two years ago in blocking attempts to introduce limits on the amount of time they could spend at sea.

The ministry has widened this year's decommissioning scheme to try to attract more vessels, but officials do not

expect the target to be met. Britain's failure to meet targets for capacity reductions means that UK fishermen do not have access to the EU's ECU1.34bn (£1.96bn) scheme for restructuring and modernising fleets. This provides grants of up to 50 per cent of the cost of updating fishing vessels.

"It means we have a geriatric fleet," said Mr Deas. "We seem to have all the downsides of the Common Fisheries Policy and none of the benefits."

The Republic of Ireland, Belgium and the Netherlands have also failed to meet their targets for reductions. British fishermen are campaigning for the abolition of the common fisheries policy, and the government has called for change to the policy at the current EU intergovernmental conference. A recent report by the commission praised Britain's enforcement of the policy as "efficient and competent," and criticised Spain where "much is still to be done".

Digital subsidy planned for users of satellite TV

By Raymond Snoddy in London

British Sky Broadcasting plans a large subsidy for digital satellite television receiving equipment to boost the launch of its 200-channel service next year. The plan is to ensure that the decoders needed to view the new service will be available to consumers at about £200 (£304) - a little over half the expected retail price.

The satellite group announced earlier this week that it had leased half the capacity on an Astra satellite entirely devoted to digital television. The satellite

is due to be launched late next year. BSkyB intends to start at about 200 channels and move up to a total of 500. BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by Mr Rupert Murdoch's News International, will not however be putting up the money directly to pay for the receiver subsidy.

The group is planning to create a new company devoted to developing interactive services such as home shopping on the digital satellite service. Some of the initial money invested in the new company by interactive service providers will be used to kick-start the digital

satellite project. Further funds will be raised from the home shopping transactions. Digital satellite television can be used for interactive services by including a simple modem in the decoder box. BSkyB also intends to encourage a rapid take-up of digital satellite by holding the monthly charge for what will soon be several hundred channels of television at the same rate as the conventional, more restricted, analogue Sky Television service.

The BBC is actively reviewing whether large sections of its present activities can be moved out to the private sector. The areas which might move outside the publicly funded corporation include all its business and administration functions and the development of an information technology and communications systems linking the entire BBC.

A hint of big changes came on Thursday when the BBC announced its vision of the future of digital television. It was "evaluating whether some capital-intensive activities can be better supplied externally than internally." The main areas being looked at are IT and business and administration.

Football's return to respect-

ability has been an important factor behind the recent growth of the sports corporate hospitality industry. In the 1980s, clients were taken to rugby matches at Twickenham, to the tennis at Wimbledon and to cricket matches at Lord's. Football grounds were seen as dirty places populated by hooligans which lacked decent toilets, let alone corporate entertainment facilities.

But most big football clubs have now realised how much guaranteed income corporate hospitality can provide. In Amsterdam, Ajax is moving to a new stadium this summer largely so that it can accommodate more business clients.

Business seats, sold for £16,000 (£3,530) a season, are changing hands at double that on the unofficial market.

Mr Willis warns that a recession would hit corporate hospitality hard. "It's a very acute barometer of economic success. At the first signs of anxiety, the old financial director sticks his foot on the brake."

WEEKEND BUSINESS			
LESLEY SUMNER 0171 573 3308 BUSINESSES FOR SALE BUSINESS FOR SALE Small specialist engineering company based in East Midlands Established over 20 years Niche business Consistent profit record Current turnover in excess of £800k Current net profit in excess of £300k Proprietors wish to retire but will stay for a transitional period. Cash offers only. Write to Box B4452, Financial Times, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL	STEVEDORING COMPANY 40 acre site on Hull Docks Lifting cranes - 2x15 tonnes auxiliary equipment 3 million tonnes capacity p.a. Workshops and office block Coal washing plant Tarmacadam piled area Road, rail and barge connected Contact: Hull Bulk Handling Limited Fernwood House, Fernwood Drive Main Road, Westwood Hullingham HU16 1JA Tel: 0115 538 9378 Fax: 0115 538 9343	SAVE ON INT'L PHONE CALLS! Ask about our new lower rates worldwide. Now featuring Faxaway and Int'l Internet access! Lines open 24 hrs In the UK: Call: 0800-96-4016 Fax: 0800-96-4015 In the US: Call: 1-202-284-8800 Fax: 1-202-282-6666 Beware of Imitators! 117 2nd Ave. W. Seattle, WA 98101, USA	LUCY BATZOVSKY 0171 573 3507 Home & Office Software UNIVERSAL EXOTICS, OPTIONS, SWAP, YIELD, ZERO-CURVE ADD-INS Additional spreadsheet functions for Financial Markets Professionals using Lotus 1-2-3 and Excel (Windows, OS-2, Mac), European and American style options and warrants on bonds, commodities, currencies, futures and shares. Prices reviewed on CD-ROM FSO - Financial Systems Software A division of FSI Limited The Royal House, 12th Floor Aldersgate Street London EC2N 2JN Tel: 0161 871 1711 Fax: 0161 871 1712 E-mail: info@fsi.co.uk www.fsi.co.uk
PROFITABLE DISPOSAL Major water treatment company disposing profitable Division selling to National specifiers, Local Authorities etc. Manufactured products well established throughout UK. Ideal bolt onto existing business. 95/6 £0.75M T/O GP66% NP £200K 96/7 ANTIC £1M ANSA FAX 01484 517810	FEATURE FILM PRODUCTION COMPANY with extensive portfolio of new product invites FILM ANGLES (minimum investment £250 - in production). Small shareholding in company maybe available. For more information write to Box B4518 Financial Times, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL	NUTRITION/LIFESTYLE/DIRECT SALES CO. with low cost base in W. London. Modern premises. Enormous potential. Controlling shareholder moving to West Indies for personal reasons. Seeks Management Buy-in or Joint Venture partner with Marketing/Distribution/Direct Sales expertise & capital for development. Existing investment to remain. TEL: 0171 324 6484 FOR FURTHER DETAILS.	LEGAL NOTICE The Liquidators of Justice, No. 102105 of 1994, Company No. 102105 of 1994, in the MATTER OF SUN LIFE AND PROVIDENT HOLDINGS PLC AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 1985 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 26th April 1994 presented to His Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the Share Premium Account of the above-named Company to £200,000. AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition was heard before the Companies Court Reporters at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 26th day of May 1994. ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of the Share Premium Account should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose. A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undersigned Solicitors on payment of the applicable charge for the same. Dated this 26th day of May 1994. Solicitors and Messrs. (MIDNIGHT) 35 Beaufort Street, London EC2N 3DB Solicitors for the said Company
BUSINESS SERVICES MOSCOW EXPRESS Your mail delivered in Moscow by courier within 5 days for £14.75 per item (up to 50 grams) For further details call Mark or Sergey on 0131 554 5311 or fax 0131 554 2330	BUSINESS FOR SALE Aluminium Building Product Manufacture and Installation £2 million turnover UK wide customer base Growing and profitable Principals only please contact. Box B4444, Financial Times, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL	BUSINESS WANTED MAJOR OPPORTUNITY With an impressive financial base, we wish to acquire: Agricultural equipment dealerships Diesel engine and transmission distributors Prestigious manufacturers with minimum turnover of £5m Contact Graham Hall, Chairman Hafford Group 30 Castlefield Ind Est Bridgwater Somerset TA8 4DH	PROTECT YOUR CONFIDENTIAL DATA Lock-up computer data on your PC or laptop using our PIN protected hard-disk electronic key and data encryption software. Requires no hardware installation on PC. Ideal for securing sensitive data from laptop theft or personal data on shared networks. Complete package £25.00 plus VAT. Trade enquiries invited. For information contact: Intercede Ltd Tel: 01452 220228 (4lines) Fax: 01452 220221 E-mail: 100216.1457@compuserve.com

0171 573 3308

Kvaerner warns on disposals as shipbuilding arm hits profits

By Hugh Carnegie
in Stockholm and
Tim Burt in London

Kvaerner, the Norwegian engineering and shipbuilding group which last month paid \$904m (\$1.38bn) for the UK's Trafalgar House, said yesterday it was about one-third of the way through a £1bn disposal programme aimed at reducing debts incurred in the takeover.

Announcing sluggish first-quarter results, however, the group warned that the disposals could take more than two years to complete.

So far, Kvaerner said it had raised £330m from the sell-off, including proceeds from Trafalgar's sale of the Ritz Hotel and its Ideal Homes housebuilding arm.

The Norwegian company has

also sold a 25 per cent stake in the Finnish company Tampella, which it acquired in February for Nkr370m (\$56.7m) and sold in April for a Nkr167m gain.

Other assets expected to be sold include the UK group's property portfolio and Cunard luxury cruise line, which includes the prestigious QE2. In total, Kvaerner said it had identified non-core assets - including those already sold - worth £1.3bn.

Mr Atle Farstad, senior vice-president for finance, said the company had received approaches from a number of shipping lines interested in Cunard, but was under no pressure from lenders to rush through a disposal.

He admitted, however, that the Trafalgar takeover had lifted the group's long-term lia-

bilities from Nkr5bn to Nkr14bn.

Kvaerner - which has arranged a £450m 2-year "bridging" loan to finance the Trafalgar purchase - is taking on the long-troubled UK group at a time of weakening performance in its own businesses.

The group yesterday reported an 8.5 per cent fall in pre-tax profits in the first quarter, excluding Trafalgar House - from Nkr587m to Nkr537m. However, last year's figure included about Nkr70m in profit from gas carrier operations and roughly Nkr90m in foreign currency gains, compared with a foreign exchange loss this time of Nkr16m.

Earnings per share fell from Nkr4.75 to Nkr3.86.

The biggest worry was a collapse in new orders for its ship-

building division - to date the biggest unit - from Nkr3.1bn in the same period a year ago to only Nkr285m this time.

Operating profits in shipbuilding slipped from Nkr374m to Nkr313m, undermining group profits, which were boosted by a Nkr249m gain from the sale of ships.

The oil and gas division saw operating profits rise slightly from Nkr28m to Nkr36m, but there were losses in the mechanical engineering and pulp and paper equipment units. Group sales rose from Nkr7.4bn to Nkr7.6bn.

Despite the crash in new shipbuilding orders, the group order reserve was down only marginally at Nkr2.9bn, compared with Nkr3.2bn a year ago.

Kvaerner said the combined order book with Trafalgar

PROFILE

Kvaerner

Market value: \$1.7bn Main listing: Oslo

Historic P/E

6.24

Gross yield

2.55%

Earnings per share

Nkr 40.78

Current share price

Nkr 254.6

President and chief executive

Erik Torseth

SHARE PRICE

relative to the Oslo SE

1990 91 92 93 94 95

Source: FT Data, Datastream, Company accounts

EARNINGS PER SHARE

(pence)

1990 91 92 93 94 95

Source: FT Data, Datastream, Company accounts

House at the end of April was

Nkr70bn. The group plans to

reveal full plans for the struc-

ture and strategy of the

enlarged organisation in July -

100 days after completing the

Trafalgar acquisition.

Lex, Page 22

Amcor to buy UCB packaging unit

By Nikki Tait in Sydney

Amcor, the Australian paper and packaging group, is to buy the European flexible packaging interests of UCB, the Belgium-based chemicals, packaging and pharmaceuticals company, in a two-part deal worth more than A\$100m (US\$60m).

The Australian company will pay about A\$100m for an initial 51 per cent stake in the business, but will have the right to acquire the other 49 per cent in July next year.

In Melbourne, Mr Chris Nixon, managing director of Amcor's containers packaging division, said that Amcor expected the purchase price for

the second share tranche - assuming this deal goes ahead - to be "pro rata" with the initial stake.

The UCB unit encompasses seven plants - three in Belgium, two in the Netherlands, and one each in Germany and Spain - plus a number of additional sales offices. Its annual sales are about A\$400m, and it is said to be profitable although no figure has been disclosed. UCB has been restructuring its packaging operations recently, and has already sold or closed a number of loss-making units.

Amcor said it would merge its existing flexible packaging business in Europe - the German-based Schroeder & Wag-

ner unit which it acquired as part of the RIG Reisch group in late 1994 - with the UCB operations. The combined group, to be renamed Amcor Flexibles Europe, would be "one of the largest pan-European suppliers of flexible packaging", it said.

The UCB purchase is the latest in a steady stream of acquisitions by Amcor as it expands its business in Europe, North America and Europe. However, it comes only a week after the Australian group warned that profits for the current financial year, to end-June, were likely to be down on last year's record A\$462.8m (before abnormal) - the first blip in Amcor's profits growth record

for more than a decade.

Foster's Brewing, via its recently-acquired Mildara Blass wine-making subsidiary, has moved closer to winning its contested bid for New South Wales-based Rothbury Wines. After Foster's raised its offer price from 60 cents to 67.5 cents a share, the rival bidder - BRL Hardy - announced it was withdrawing its own offer and would accept the Foster's terms unless better emerged.

Foster's has a 14.4 per cent stake in Rothbury, while BRL Hardy owns about 18.3 per cent. But Rothbury directors, who have just announced a record 1996 crash, said that they were still rejecting the new terms.

Sony to evaluate 'strategic options' for Psygnosis

By Raymond Snoddy

Sony Corporation of America has decided to evaluate "all strategic options" for Psygnosis, its Liverpool-based electronic games software publisher.

It has called in SBC Warburg to carry out the evaluation of Psygnosis, which includes the possibility of selling the company.

Mr Ted Kawai, deputy president of Sony Corporation and a Psygnosis director, said that Sony's strategic imperative was now centred on developing its PlayStation business, for which more than 4m of the 32-bit games platforms had already been shipped.

Its current hit games include Destruction Derby and WipeOut, each of which has sold more than 1m units.

Psygnosis, which employs 300, was founded in 1984 by Mr Jonathan Ellis and Mr Ian Hetherington and was bought by Sony in 1993. It is believed

to be profitable and expanding. In the financial year to March 31 it sold more than 2m game units, including 12 new titles. The previous year 800,000 units were sold.

"Psygnosis strengths are as a multi-platform publisher," Mr Kawai said. As a result Sony was considering how to maximise its long-term operating potential.

"With its successful performance and attractive valuation, we believe this is the right time to explore a variety of options," said Mr Kawai. Apart from a sale, the options will include a management buy-out and attracting a new strategic partner.

The Liverpool company has developed more than 100 games titles and plans to issue 23 new titles this year. This month it will release Adidas Power Sport Soccer and later in the year Formula One. Figures on Psygnosis profits or how much Sony paid for it were not available.

Newcastle United to write off player value

By Patrick Harverson

Newcastle United has become the latest big English football club to change its accounting treatment of player values in anticipation of the end of the multi-million pound transfer system.

Yesterday it announced it had written off the entire value of its squad.

The club - which came second in the Premier League this season - would not reveal the value it had originally put on its players, but it will be taking a net charge of £12m in the 14 months to July 31 1995, its most recent financial year.

The write-off of player values follows a similar move last month by Tottenham Hotspur, which decided to write-down to zero the value of its squad over a period of several years.

Both clubs are reacting to a recent European court ruling banning transfer fees for out-of-contract players moving between EU countries.

This is expected to lead to a similar ban on transfers of out-of-contract players within the UK.

The £12m charge being taken by Newcastle means the club will report a substantial loss for 1995 at its annual meeting later this month.

However, it revealed yesterday that operating profits in the 14 months to July 31 1995 were unchanged at £3.8m on turnover of £29.1m.

Gartmore Japan short

Gartmore Select Japanese, a new investment trust, yesterday announced it had raised just over £20m, compared with a target of about £75m.

The disappointing result was due partly to a worsening investment outlook in Japan and stiff competition from the Atlantic Japan Growth Fund. It was oversubscribed and its shares went to a premium to net asset value on the first day of trading yesterday.

Japan trusts in merger

Edinburgh Japan Trust has announced a recommended offer for Dunedin Japan Investment Trust.

Following the recent acquisition of two Japanese trusts the directors of Edinburgh Japan believe that it is logical to merge with Dunedin Japan.

CFF shareholders aim to block restructuring plan

By Andrew Jack in Paris

Shareholders at Crédit Foncier de France, the specialist property lender in extreme financial difficulty, are planning to block a proposed restructuring proposal by the group's management that would wipe out the value of their investments.

A group of investors is pushing for greater state intervention to rescue the bank, and hiring accountants to support its accusations that information published by the group in the recent past was inaccurate.

Their action follows Crédit Foncier's announcement at the end of April of a proposal almost to wipe out the value of its equity to offset provisions of FF13.6bn (\$2.65bn) which dragged it into losses of FF10.8bn for the year. It is also seeking the support of an external investor.

Ms Colette Neuville, head of Adam, the association for the

defence of minority shareholders, estimated she had support from investors representing up to 15 per cent of the voting rights of the group, including both leading French and international institutions frustrated with the plans.

She said her aim was to gather one third of those present and voting at the annual general meeting - set for the end of June - to block approval of the 1995 accounts and the rescue plan. That could lead to the collapse of the group, which has FF290bn outstanding in bonds, making it the second-largest borrower in the country after the French government.

Ms Neuville led a legal challenge at the end of last year which prevented Crédit Foncier going ahead with a proposed merger between the parent group and Société des Immeubles de France, its 55 per cent-controlled subsidiary.

at terms she argued were unacceptable.

In a rare attack on an incumbent group of managers in a French company, she was supported by institutional investors including UAF, Crédit Agricole, Société Générale and Ivory & Sime.

In her latest move, she has argued that the group's huge new provisions suggest that the recent accounts published for Crédit Foncier are no longer credible. Earlier this month she called on the Commission des Opérations de Bourse, the stock market watchdog, to launch an inquiry. She says the French state, which has no shares in Crédit Foncier but appoints its chairman, carries responsibility to provide additional support. It has already stressed that the group's outstanding bonds will be honoured, suggesting bankruptcy would be impossible.

Cantors set to increase out-of-town presence

By Jane Martinson

Shares in Cantors rose 5p to reach a year's high of 180p as the furnishing group announced that it was involved in acquisition talks.

Following the announcement that talks "may lead to a substantial transaction", the company would only say that any deal would take "weeks rather than days". Analysts suggested that the target would be a small, probably unlisted, furnishing group.

Cantors has recently focused on developing out-of-town sites and the acquisition is thought likely to increase its presence away from the high street.

Takeover speculation and optimism about the effect of

Cantors

Share price (pence)



Source: FT Data

shares dropped to 89p.

The Sheffield-based retailer cut its total dividend from 4p to 3p last year and warned that it would incur a trading loss for the first half. At the same time it reported a 37 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £1.61m on turnover of £83.4m (£82m).

A year ago there was a wholesale management change at the group when Mr Nicholas Jeffrey was appointed executive chairman and Mr Michael Stewart managing director. Mr Ian Hanson moved from company secretary to finance director, and Mr Alan Hickford to merchandising director. Mr Harold Cantor, non-executive chairman since 1986, became president, remaining on the board.

Hawtal Whiting maintains pay-out despite nil earnings

By Haig Simonian,
Motor Industry Correspondent

Hawtal Whiting, the specialist automotive design and engineering company, suffered a steep fall in 1995 profits on the back of a drop in new business and two big uncollected debts.

The pre-tax line dropped from £3.17m to £1.24m while sales slipped from £79.9m to £77.8m. The shares fell 13p to 167p.

"I think there's going to be an improvement this year", said Mr Chris Russell, managing director, explaining why the single dividend remains unchanged at 2.5p - to be paid

partly from reserves. The company disclosed nil earnings per share against 20.8p last time.

Difficulties at Hawtal reflected a hiatus in big orders that obliged the company to turn to lower-margin business, sending engineers and designers to clients.

Hawtal also had to write off £162,000 in debts. Mr Russell would not reveal the names of its clients, but said the main sum involved was minor compared to the value of a contract gained with the customer concerned.

Profits were also hit by continuing difficulties at the German subsidiary, which has

struggled to find work to replace now-expired contracts with established clients. The operation is to be slimmed down, but will not be closed, to provide continuing services to multinational customers.

Mr Russell said the company was more optimistic about the current year as the quality of orders had improved, notably with opportunities from car-makers in emerging markets.

New orders should ensure facilities do not lie idle, as in 1995, and prompted Greig Middleton, the house broker, to forecast pre-tax profits of £4m this year on a 5 per cent rise in turnover to £52m.

Hanson to put most debt in its chemicals arm

By Tim Burt

Hanson, the industrial conglomerate, has drawn up plans to split more than £3.3bn of net debts between the four new companies proposed under its forthcoming demerger.

The company, which will publish details of its debt allocation package next week, has decided to place the largest slug of debt in its chemicals arm, which is likely to be listed in New York by the autumn.

Most City analysts had expected the chemicals business, including SCM and Quantum, to assume about £1.1bn of net debt but the figure is likely to be closer to £1.3bn.

Imperial Tobacco, also slated for an autumn market debut, is expected to inherit debts of about £1bn, somewhat higher than the £800m-£900m originally forecast.

Although senior executives of the demerged companies have lobbied for an even spread of the debt burden, Hanson has organised the structure so that the building materials arm - which is to retain the company's current name - is the least indebted.

It is expected to emerge from the process with net debts of about £300m. Meanwhile, the energy business - including Eastern Group, the UK electricity company, and the Peabody mining operations - could end up with a higher-than-expected debt of £750m.

Analysts are forecasting reduced underlying pre-tax profits of about £800m (£633m) for the six months to March.

The company declined to comment yesterday.

Officials confirmed, however, that it would be unveiling new corporate identities for the four demerged businesses, of which the energy and chemicals arms are to be renamed.

Hanson had planned to call its chemicals business Summit. But it has since dropped the plan in favour of another, as yet undisclosed, title.

Next Thursday, the company is expected to blame a weak first quarter in the chemicals sector for a fall in interim profits.

Analysts are forecasting reduced underlying pre-tax profits of about £800m (£633m) for the six months to March.

through letters of support. However, Brightstone, which has enlisted entrepreneur investors Mr Luke Johnson and Mr Hugh Osmond to help seek a non-property reverse takeover, repeated advice to shareholders to take no action.

It claimed CNC's interest amounted to only 18.4 per cent.

CNC bought the stake at 120p - 4p below its offer price. The shares closed unchanged at 121p yesterday.

OFFSHORE OPTIONS

7.5%
GROSS P.A. £50,000+

7.25%
GROSS P.A. £5,000+

4 YEAR FIXED
RATE BOND

7.0%
GROSS P.A. £50,000+

6.75%
GROSS P.A. £5,000+

2 YEAR FIXED
RATE BOND

- Minimum investment only £5,000. Maximum investment £1 million. No further deposits permitted after opening.
- Early closure options after 30.6.1998 for 4 Year Bond, 30.6.1997 for 2 Year Bond, subject to 180 days interest charge. No partial withdrawals.
- Interest paid into your bank or building society account on 30th June each year, commencing 1997.
- Interest paid gross, with rates guaranteed until 30.6.2000 for 4 Year Bond and 30.6.1998 for 2 Year Bond.
- Accounts mature into Yorkshire Guernsey's instant access account.
- Should you wish to cancel your application, you may do so in writing within ten working days of its receipt by Yorkshire Guernsey. Your investment will be returned including any interest earned, and no charge will be payable.

YORKSHIRE GUERNSEY IS A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF YORKSHIRE BUILDING SOCIETY

These are strictly limited products. To maximise the opportunity to participate, investors should attach a cheque or bankers draft to this application form.

(WE ENCLOSE A CHEQUE OR BANKERS DRAFT FOR £500 TO INVEST IN ☐ 4 YEAR BOND ☐ 2 YEAR BOND

Interest Instructions: (We require interest to be: ☐ Transferred to YGL A/C No. ☐ sent to (name of bank) ☐ Address ☐ Bank Sort Code ☐

Bank Account No. Bank A/C Holder's Name

Yorkshire Guernsey will normally contact your nominated bank/building society to verify your details. If you wish to nominate another bank/building society to supply such proof, please include the bank name, full address and account number on a separate sheet attached to this application.

Early Closure Instructions (Joint account holders only) Early closure will be on the signature(s) of: ☐ all account holders ☐ any ☐ account holders (please state no. required to sign).

Personal Details: 1 Title Forenames Surname D.O.B. / /

2 Title Forenames Surname D.O.B. / /

Address Postcode Tel No

Note: If correspondence address is different from above, please supply on separate sheet attached to this application.

I/we agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of the account and of Yorkshire Guernsey, which will be sent to me.

1 Signature 2 Signature Date

I wish to receive further information on 2 Year Bond and 4 Year Bond ☐ (Complete name and address details above)

Return your completed application form and cheque or bankers draft to: Yorkshire Guernsey, PO Box 384, Valley House, Hospital Lane, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands GY1 2SF

YORKSHIRE GUERNSEY

A SUBSIDIARY OF YORKSHIRE BUILDING SOCIETY

Yorkshire Guernsey Limited has its registered office and principal place of business at PO Box 384, Valley House, Hospital Lane, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands. GY1 2SF. It is licensed under the Banking Supervision (Guernsey) Law 1984 as amended. The paid-up share capital and reserves of Yorkshire Guernsey Limited exceed £20 million. Interest rates on the instant access account and on the investments measure are variable. Copies of the most recent audited accounts of Yorkshire Guernsey are available on request from the above address. Deposits made with Yorkshire Guernsey are not covered by the Deposit Protection Scheme under the UK Banking Act 1987. Yorkshire Building Society is obliged to meet any liabilities of Yorkshire Guernsey limited which this company is unable to meet out of its own assets. Interest is paid annually and calculated on a daily basis commencing three working days from the day of receipt and up to, but not including, the day of withdrawal.

COMPANIES AND FINANCE: UK

Shell executive to head TransCo Intl

By David Lascoll,
Resources Editor

British Gas is paying a £100,000 "golden hello" to attract a top executive from Shell to run one of its key divisions.

Mr David Varney, a managing director of Shell UK, has been hired as chief executive of TransCo International, the pipeline arm of British Gas which is to be demerged as a separate company next year.

British Gas said that the special payment was being made to compensate Mr Varney for the cost of moving, and for benefits lost at Shell, such as share

options and pension rights. He will be paid £385,000 a year, which British Gas said was the going rate for top executives in the international oil and gas business.

With the recent retirement of Mr Cecil Brown, the chief executive, Mr Varney will be the highest paid executive at British Gas apart from Mr Richard Giordano, the chairman.

British Gas also confirmed the widely expected appointment of Mr Roy Gardner as chief executive designate of British Gas Energy, the division which will form the other half of the demerger. Mr Gardner is already running the

operations that will make up BGE.

Another senior executive, Mr Philip Rogerson, who had widely been expected to run TransCo, will become executive deputy chairman of both TransCo and BGE with special responsibility for the demerger and for regulatory matters. Sources inside the company said that Mr Rogerson, who has a financial background, was better suited for this role. The decision to hire an outsider to run TransCo was taken some time ago by Mr Giordano.

Despite the generous terms on offer, British Gas is understood to have had difficulty attracting outside talent. It is

believed that there was only a short list of potential candidates for Mr Varney's position. Further, the post of finance director at British Gas Energy remains unfilled because the person who was offered the job joined another company at the last minute.

However, Mr Giordano said yesterday's appointments marked an important step towards the restructuring. "A vital task is accomplished. We will have the skills and experience needed to take these new companies forward."

The demerger, announced in February, is scheduled for the early part of next year.

Waste companies stall water bids referral

By Jane Martinson

The investigation into the largest takeover in the water industry has been delayed because it could lead to dominance in waste management.

Both Severn Trent and Wessex Water announced their desire to buy rival utility South West Water in March. Under special provisions made at the time of privatisation, such bids go automatically to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

However, almost two months

later the case has still not been referred because the Office of Fair Trading is investigating the impact of a possible merger on three waste management companies owned by the rivals.

Biffa, a subsidiary of Severn Trent, and UK Waste, a joint venture 50 per cent owned by Wessex, are already two of the largest waste management companies in the country. In the event of a takeover, the combination of either of these companies with Haul-Waste, South West's waste management arm, would create the

largest company in the sector.

Although there have been signs of consolidation in the waste management industry, it is still highly fragmented. Estimates suggest that either combination would create a market share of about 15 per cent nationally.

However, competition is more intense in certain regions. Belfast is thought to be one area where a potential conflict could arise. At the moment UK Waste is the dominant force in the city, but South West, which added to its

waste management arm with a £70m acquisition last year, has a large site in the city with the potential to be UK Waste's main competitor.

Severn Trent paid £212m for Biffa in 1991. It contributed £102m to operating profits and £86.1m to sales in the last interim period.

UK Waste, the joint venture between Wessex and Waste Management International, contributed £6m to Wessex's interim pre-tax profits.

The delay in the referral has spawned a host of theories,

from those suggesting a delay would avoid an MMC decision close to the party conference season to the more mundane that the OFT has been so busy with the frenetic takeover activity of late that it has simply not had the time.

The closest comparative bid when French utility Lyonnaise des Eaux bought Northumbrian water last year - was referred to the MMC within a month.

The OFT is expected to announce its decision later this week.

Lax controls at St James Beach lead to warning

By Greg Mcivor

Deficient accounting controls at St James Beach Hotels, the Barbados hotel operator, prompted a warning that annual pre-tax profits could fall below last year's £1.9m.

Shares in the company dropped 14p to 100p after it said pre-tax profits would be not less than £1.4m in the year to April. Turnover was ahead of budget.

Mr Ray Horney, St James chairman, blamed inadequate financial control for a rise in labour costs. He said stock values had been written down from the end-of-year stock count and annual depreciation was higher than initially



allowed for.

Late last year the managing director, finance director and sales and marketing director all left the company.

Mr Horney, who is acting managing director, said new internal controls had been introduced and a full-time internal auditor appointed.

Butterfield Securities, the company's broker, downgraded its £3.5m pre-tax profit forecast to £3m in December, after interim results revealed a substantial rise in operating costs due to the reopening of two hotels.

Pre-tax losses in the six months to September 30 dropped to £208,000 (£51,000), but the company said performance in the final quarter had been strong.

St James, which operates four hotels, has seen its share price plummet since November, underperforming the sector by 36 per cent. It said it intended to recommend a final dividend of 3.5p, a 20 per cent full-year increase.

Is this the end of the City shuffle?

John Gapper analyses the link between ABN Amro and Rothschild

If it works, the link announced yesterday between ABN Amro and Rothschild could mark the end of Big Bang Mark Two. It will potentially resolve the last big uncertainty in the reshuffle of ownership of merchant banks and stockbroking firms in the City during the past year.

This is a big "if". Rothschild has chosen to go its own way, rejecting approaches from banks such as National Westminster that wanted to take a stake in the business. Instead, it has forged an arrangement with ABN Amro based on profit-sharing and co-operation in the firms' mutual interest.

The motive for the link is plain enough on both sides. As far as Rothschild is concerned, it could fill the gap left by Merrill Lynch's acquisition of Smith New Court last year. The firm bought out Rothschild's 25 per cent stake, taking away its main outlet for equity distribution.

This has presented a problem for Rothschild in the past few months. Although its strength in privatisation advice has won work on projects such as Deutsche Telecom and OVRD, an iron ore company in Brazil, it has had to form ad hoc partnerships to sell equities when these companies are floated.

This business, known as "equity capital markets", is one of the main money-spinners in international investment banking at the moment. The link with ABN Amro will allow it to pitch for such business by offering the ability not only to underwrite, but distribute equities in Europe and Asia.

The logic is also clearly enough for ABN Amro. The bank was one of the main contenders to buy Baring Brothers in the days after its collapse, and has made no secret of its interest in buying Schroders.

This deal could give it the benefits it was seeking in such a deal without having to pay anything. ABN Amro's problem is that



Wilco Jiskoot (left), vice-president of ABN Amro, with Tony Alt, a Rothschild director

it has a strong network of local brokers in Europe and Asia, which it has named ABN Amro Hoare Govett after the UK stockbroker firm that it bought in 1993. However, it has lacked a strong corporate finance arm that would be able to use this to its full capacity.

An optimist therefore has plenty of reason to see the deal as a perfect match, which has not even cost either side money. "We could build up a securities arm, but it would take a long time and cost a lot of money. This way we get the benefits free," said Mr Tony Alt, a Rothschild director.

The deal is structured as a profit-sharing arrangement. Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, chairman of NM Rothschild & Sons, which has arranged the deal jointly with Rothschild & Cie in Paris, talks of a 50/50 split. The proportions will be fixed for each deal, but have not been disclosed.

However, whatever its possible benefits, there are several potential problems. The most basic is that there is nothing to

bind them other than goodwill and mutual interest. Rothschild had talked to National Westminster about a similar deal, but NatWest wanted a stake in the merchant bank.

The problem with joint ventures is that they tend either to become closer after a few years, or to dissolve. It is already clear ABN Amro would prefer the former. "If [buying a stake in Rothschild] was ever suggested, I would certainly look at it. Why not?" says Mr Jan Kalf, ABN Amro's chairman.

That does not appear to go in equal measure for Rothschild, which remains in the family's hands. "We are not dogmatic, but we do not want to be bought out by a clearing bank," says Sir Evelyn. It suggests that ABN Amro could eventually become frustrated if the joint venture works as it wishes.

A second question is whether the two firms fit together as well as superficial appearances suggest. ABN Amro Hoare Govett has been built from a patchwork of local brokers outside the UK. This

may not provide the quality of research and sales required to distribute big equity deals successfully.

An example of this is in eastern Europe, where Rothschild does a lot of privatisation work. It is adviser to the Czech government in the privatisation of Slovak Telecom. ABN Amro Hoare Govett has bought small brokers in Hungary and Greece, but the quality of research is little tested.

A third question is the reaction of Hoare Govett. Mr Peter Melnerzhagen, Hoare Govett's chairman, has persuaded ABN that there is value in being an independent broker in the City. It will not be affected by the link with Rothschild for now, but Mr Kalf says the question could be revisited.

For now, both Mr Kalf and Sir Evelyn pronounce themselves well satisfied with the bargain. Mr Kalf says it answers all questions for ABN Amro in London, while Sir Evelyn says it more than makes up for Smith New Court. What happens if either becomes disillusioned remains to be seen.

IMI to reduce Timet holding

By Richard Wolfe

IMI, the international engineering group, yesterday said it was raising up to £100m (£105m) by selling most of its holding in Timet, its newly-merged titanium business.

Timet is one of the world's leading titanium producers and is jointly owned with Tremont Corporation of the US and a Japanese consortium, Union Titanium Sponge Corporation.

Timet's initial public offering

of 10m shares will repay debts, including £12m owed to IMI. Half the shares are to be sold by Timet, while the remainder are to be sold by IMI and the UTSC. The sale will reduce IMI's holding from 38 to 6.4 per cent.

Andaman Resources seeks cash

Andaman Resources, one of the two companies formed out of Andaman, the Belfast-based mineral exploration and road markings group, is seeking £125,000 net via a 1-for-1 open offer at 0.5p a share.

Last month Andaman split into Transport Systems which took on the group's road markings side while Andaman Resources was formed to take on the exploration activities.

For each Andaman share, holders received one ordinary 10p share in Transport Systems and one 0.5p share in Andaman Resources.

Both companies' shares will be quoted on Ofsx.

RESULTS

	Turnover (£m)	Pre-tax profit (£m)	EPS (p)	Current payment (p)	Date of payment	Dividends (p)	Total for year	Total last year
IMI	6.07 (7.76)	0.253L (0.781P)	4.07L (12.75)	3	July 25	1.5	4.5	4.5
IMI Whiting	77.8 (79.3)	1.244L (5.17)	10P (20.1)	2.5	Aug 14	2.5	2.5	2.5
IMI B	8.5 (8.77)	6.824L (6.784P)	83.7L (77.2)	nil	nil	nil	4.47	4.47
IMI's share	3 miles to Mar 31	40.8 (42.5)	13.6L (12.1)	0.15L (0.12)	-	-	24P	24P
	Turnover (£m)	Pre-tax profit (£m)	EPS (p)	Current payment (p)	Date of payment	Dividends (p)	Total for year	Total last year
IMI UK Smaller	152.25 (111.88)	0.917 (0.848)	4.37 (4.01)	1.9	July 3	1.8	2.9	2.8
IMI UK Smaller	127.4 (110)	2.25 (1.75)	5.02 (4.04)	2.2	July 5	2.1	4.4	4.2

Earnings shown basic. Dividends shown net except ICI. Figures in brackets are for corresponding period. After exceptional charge. After exceptional credit. 10p increased capital. 4p/10p currency. +US currency.

NEWS DIGEST

Hall quits metal stockholding

Hall Engineering is to sell its metal stockholding division for £21m cash to Hallco 63, a newly formed company controlled by Mr Richard Hall, executive chairman of Hall Engineering, and his family trusts.

Mr John Sward, managing director of Hall Engineering, said the sale would increase the proportion of assets deployed in areas with potential for sustainable growth. The proceeds would help reduce gearing.

Mr Sward explained that the stockholding division was being sold because it operated in a highly cyclical sector with limited opportunities for growth. Such a business, where profits are dependent on a few highly-skilled traders, was more suitable for private ownership. The sale of the three companies in the division, John Tainton, Hall & Pickles and CBA, came after a number of bids had been solicited. The disposal is expected to give rise to a small profit before goodwill write-off and tax.

Laird cautions on trading

Shares in Laird Group yesterday fell 31p to 456p after the motor components and building products manufacturer sounded a note of caution on current trading.

Mr John Gardiner, chairman, told the annual meeting that sales at the start of 1996 had not matched the unusually high levels reported at the start of last year.

"As a result, profits in 1996, particularly at the start of the year have been running at lower levels than the exceptional profits seen in the first four months of 1995, though more recently the gap has begun to narrow."

Before the announcement, analysts had been expecting pre-tax profits this year of about £73m against £86.1m.

Tim Hart

Zeneca first quarter sales ahead

Zeneca said yesterday that drugs and agrochemicals sales in the first quarter were well ahead of the same stage of 1995 and of the pharmaceutical company's own forecasts.

The shares rose 11p to 213.7p.

"This has been something of an exceptional start," Sir Sydney Lipworth, chairman, told the annual meeting.

But he warned that development and launch costs for new products had risen. In the past year, the company has launched three new anti-cancer products.

Daniel Green

Talks to promote Hilton brand

Ladbroke, the leisure group which owns Hilton International, and Hilton Hotels of the US hope to agree a closer co-operation over the next few months to promote the Hilton brand worldwide and cut cost duplication.

The talks cover possible collaboration in areas such as marketing, reservations, logos, and loyalty programmes, without ruling out structural measures including a full-blown merger of the two groups' hotel activities.

At present there is virtually no co-operation between the two companies. Ladbroke owns the Hilton brand outside the US.

Christopher Brown-Humes

Norwich to deter speculators

Norwich Union, the composite insurer, yesterday took powers to deter speculators in search of a bonus from its impending conversion into a public limited company.

Paying bonuses to people who hold policies with mutual life companies has gained prominence as the financial services sector goes through a process of rationalisation.

The move was approved at the insurer's annual meeting, and will enable Norwich to withdraw membership rights from the life assurance policies it sells.

Norwich announced last October that it was considering flotation. Mr George Paul, chairman, told the meeting that it expected to make a recommendation before the end of this year.

He said that the insurer had not yet experienced a "speculative surge" of new business, but that the new power represented "sensible contingency planning".

Aileen Smith

Oxford GlycoSciences

Oxford GlycoSciences, the drug discovery group, has raised £13m in a private financing round. Mr G Kirk Raab, chairman, said: "We expect that we will be ready for a stock market flotation during 1997."

The company, which claims to be the first commercial venture in Oxford University's history, was formed in 1988 with technology based on research done at the university's glycobiochemistry institute.

Simon Eager

Direct Line attracts £80m

Direct Line, the telephone-based insurer owned by the Royal Bank of Scotland, is now supporting about one-quarter of its mortgage book through retail deposits.

The insurer said that since it started selling mortgages in the second half of 1994 it had lent £280m. It had attracted £68m in deposits since launching its telephone savings account at the end of January. It would not say what its preferred balance of retail and wholesale funding for its mortgage business would be.

Norish sells Irish cold store side

Norish, the Irish food distribution and refrigeration group, is completing its withdrawal from the Irish cold storage market with the disposal of Norish (Kilkeenny) and its 60 per cent stake in Norish (Kilkeenny).

The group also announced increased pre-tax losses of £55.8m (£77m) against £270,000 for 1995 after exceptional charges of £55.8m (£52.3m) relating to store write-downs, disposals and rationalisation costs.

The proceeds, about £1.87m after repayment of inter-company loans, will be used to reduce borrowings.

LFT option on gold project

London Fiduciary Trust, the Aim-listed gold miner with operations in the Philippines, has taken an option to pay \$10m (£5.6m) for the Masbate gold project on Masbate Island, and an option to pay not more than \$2m for the Banahaw gold project, Mindanao Island.

Mr Fred Mason, new head of operations, said the acquisitions and LFT's existing Masara mine had the potential to lift production to 200,000 ounces by the end of 1997.

In Brief

■ ELYS (WIMBLEDON): Panther Securities had at May 8 received acceptances for its hostile offer representing 53.78 per cent of the share capital. Holders of 187,534 Elys shares voted in favour of the offer, representing 22.35 per cent of the capital not held by Panther.

■ FIBERNET GROUP, a data networking company, is planning to float this summer. Singer & Friedlander has been appointed sponsor to the issue, which will provide funds for expansion of the company's national data network.

Acer Incorporated
U.S. \$45,000,000
4 per cent Bonds Due 2001
(in U.S.)

In accordance with condition 703 of the Bond Trust Agreement between the Trust and the Trustee, the Trustee is hereby giving notice to the Bondholders of the Trust of the following:

- a cash dividend of \$1.00 per share of \$1.00 nominal value
- a cash dividend of one share per 25 shares of \$1.00 nominal value

Shareholders are given the opportunity to make their choice between the two alternatives. If the choice is not made by the deadline, the cash dividend will be payable.

Cash dividends on shares in U.S. form will be paid in exchange for coupon number 4. If the choice has been made for cash dividend then one new share will be provided against 25 coupon number 4.

These holding CP shares may claim dividends through the holder of the dividend coupon sheet.

The dividend will be issued from the share payment account and will be payable on June 31, 1996, at any office of International Nederlanden B.V.

Amsterdam, 10 May 1996
The Board of Directors

GCE
Gerson City Station N.V.
Gerson City Station N.V.

Notice is hereby given that at the annual general meeting of shareholders held on 10 May 1996 the following resolutions were passed:

- a cash dividend of \$1.00 per share of \$1.00 nominal value
- a cash dividend of one share per 25 shares of \$1.00 nominal value

Shareholders are given the opportunity to make their choice between the two alternatives. If the choice is not made by the deadline, the cash dividend will be payable.

Cash dividends on shares in U.S. form will be paid in exchange for coupon number 4. If the choice has been made for cash dividend then one new share will be provided against 25 coupon number 4.

These holding CP shares may claim dividends through the holder of the dividend coupon sheet.

The dividend will be issued from the share payment account and will be payable on June 31, 1996, at any office of International Nederlanden B.V.

Amsterdam, 10 May 1996
The Board of Directors

Handwritten signature: *John Gapper*

COMMODITIES AND AGRICULTURE

WEEK IN THE MARKETS

Copper tightness continues

London Metal Exchange copper prices fell back yesterday afternoon in response to news of a bigger-than-expected rise in exchange warehouse stocks, but concern about technical tightness kept nearby premiums high. The three-month position fell \$12 to \$2,672.50 a tonne, up \$36 on the week.

The tightness continued to be reflected in a large cash premium, called a "backwardation" because it is a reversal of

the normal situation where cash prices are at a discount reflecting costs of holding physical metal - storage, insurance and lost interest. The backwardation eased by \$13 yesterday to \$108 tonne compared with \$118 at the end of last week.

The depth of the LME authorities' concern about the tightening supply squeeze was underlined in mid-week when Mr David King, the chief executive, announced that the board had decided to impose a limit on the cost of carrying forward a short position for one day. Since Thursday holders of short positions who are unable to deliver copper have been required to pay a penalty equivalent to 1 per cent of the previous day's settlement price. At present that works out at around \$28 a tonne, well above the \$2 borrowing cost obtaining on the market before the LME board's action. "We can only assume that Mr King saw something in the confidential daily reports which alarmed him and the action was to preempt a disorderly situation," one analyst commented.

Mr King would not be drawn on the reasons for the action beyond denying accusations that the exchange had "baled out the shorts". He said: "We have never baled anybody out and we will not while I am chief executive."

Activity was relatively slow yesterday, with operators adopting a cautious attitude ahead of today's expected vote by workers at Peru's Codelco copper mine, the world's biggest, on whether to continue their 10-day old strike.

Bloomsbury Minerals Economics said in its latest market review this week that the recent strength of nearby copper prices was not wholly artificial as perceptions of supply-side risks had been heightened. Bloomsbury pointed to problems on Africa's Tazara railway, financial difficulties at a Russian smelter and riots at copper producing units in Iran.

But it said the most important development had been the bringing forward of the maintenance and repair shutdown of the RTZ's Garfield smelter at Bingham Canyon in the US from September to April. That move "seems to have caused unease throughout the trade", the review said. Problems persist when the smelter was back on line, Bloomsbury suggested, and there could be other smelters. "The market's continuing vulnerability to smelter accidents has been highlighted."

The review said the copper price fall of January and February had been caused by aggressive short selling by investment funds and speculators who had left themselves very vulnerable. "The subsequent squeeze has been severe," it said.

Bloomsbury thought, however, that the copper price trend in the second half of the year would turn downwards. By the second half of next year it saw cash prices falling below \$0.50 cents a pound (\$1.94 a tonne).

Other LME markets were generally quiet, as were soft commodity futures at the London Commodity Exchange.

Richard Mooney

BASE METALS

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Prices from Amalgamated Metal Trading)

ALUMINIUM, 99.7% Purity (\$ per tonne)

Cash 9 mths

Close 1638.50-37.50 1659.70

High/Low 1634.50-1669.57

Previous 1638.50-37.50 1659.70

High/Low 1634.50-1669.57

AM Official 1638.50-37.50 1659.70

Kerb close 1638.50-37.50 1659.70

Open int. 216,702 1397,400

Total daily turnover 44,905

ALUMINIUM ALLOY (\$ per tonne)

Close 1370-80 1410-15

High/Low 1355-65 1400-20

Previous 1370-80 1410-15

High/Low 1355-65 1400-20

AM Official 1370-80 1410-15

Kerb close 1370-80 1410-15

Open int. 5,453 1397,400

Total daily turnover 552

LEAD (\$ per tonne)

Close 850-52 840-42

High/Low 837 841-42

Previous 850-52 840-42

High/Low 837 841-42

AM Official 850-52 840-42

Kerb close 850-52 840-42

Open int. 26,883 843-4

Total daily turnover 5,495

NICKEL (\$ per tonne)

Close 8770-78 1410-15

High/Low 8670-68 840-85

Previous 8770-78 1410-15

High/Low 8670-68 840-85

AM Official 8770-78 1410-15

Kerb close 8770-78 1410-15

Open int. 41,503 12,673

Total daily turnover 12,673

TIN (\$ per tonne)

Close 6550-60 6550-60

High/Low 6520-30 6520-30

Previous 6550-60 6550-60

High/Low 6520-30 6520-30

AM Official 6550-60 6550-60

Kerb close 6550-60 6550-60

Open int. 16,507 555-55

Total daily turnover 3,494

ZINC, special high grade (\$ per tonne)

Close 1043-44 1069-70

High/Low 1044-45 1070-71

Previous 1043-44 1069-70

High/Low 1044-45 1070-71

AM Official 1043-44 1069-70

Kerb close 1043-44 1069-70

Open int. 71,983 1069-70

Total daily turnover 6,107

COPPER, grade A (\$ per tonne)

Close 2772-73 2872-73

High/Low 2800-05 2864-65

Previous 2772-73 2872-73

High/Low 2800-05 2864-65

AM Official 2772-73 2872-73

Kerb close 2772-73 2872-73

Open int. 71,973 2872-73

Total daily turnover 71,973

LME AM Official 9:00 a.m. 1,529.3

LME closing 12:00 a.m. 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Spec 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3 mths 1,529.3

Precious Metals continued

GOLD COMEX (100 Troy oz; \$/troy oz)

Sett. Day's price change High Low Vol

May 398.8 -2.4 - - - -

Jun 398.8 -2.4 - - - -

Jul 398.8 -2.4 - - - -

Aug 398.8 -2.4 - - - -

Sep 398.8 -2.4 - - - -

Oct 398.8 -2.4 - - - -

Nov 398.8 -2.4 - - - -

Dec 398.8 -2.4 - - - -

Total 23,111 26,807

PLATINUM COMEX (50 Troy oz; \$/troy oz)

Sett. Day's price change High Low Vol

May 408.0 -2.1 405.5 405.5 2,782 19,222

Jun 408.0 -2.1 405.5 405.5 2,782 19,222

Jul 408.0 -2.1 405.5 405.5 2,782 19,222

Aug 408.0 -2.1 405.5 405.5 2,782 19,222

Sep 408.0 -2.1 405.5 405.5 2,782 19,222

Oct 408.0 -2.1 405.5 405.5 2,782 19,222

Nov 408.0 -2.1 405.5 405.5 2,782 19,222

Dec 408.0 -2.1 405.5 405.5 2,782 19,222

Total 1,006 25,277

PALLADIUM NYMEX (100 Troy oz; \$/troy oz)

Sett. Day's price change High Low Vol

May 134.25 -1.00 134.50 133.10 496 4,719

Jun 134.25 -1.00 134.50 133.10 496 4,719

Jul 134.25 -1.00 134.50 133.10 496 4,719

Aug 134.25 -1.00 134.50 133.10 496 4,719

Sep 134.25 -1.00 134.50 133.10 496 4,719

Oct 134.25 -1.00 134.50 133.10 496 4,719

Nov 134.25 -1.00 134.50 133.10 496 4,719

Dec 134.25 -1.00 134.50 133.10 496 4,719

Total 23,148 91,520

MAIZE CBOT (5,000 bu; mths; cents/bu)

Sett. Day's price change High Low Vol

May 328.00 -2.00 328.00 327.00 2,384 6,179

Jun 328.00 -2.00 328.00 327.00 2,384 6,179

Jul 328.00 -2.00 328.00 327.00 2,384 6,179

Aug 328.00 -2.00 328.00 327.00 2,384 6,179

Sep 328.00 -2.00 328.00 327.00 2,384 6,179

Oct 328.00 -2.00 328.00 327.00 2,384 6,179

Nov 328.00 -2.00 328.00 327.00 2,384 6,179

Dec 328.00 -2.00 328.00 327.00 2,384 6,179

Total 30,401 30,401

WHEAT CBOT (5,000 bu; mths; cents/bu)

Sett. Day's price change High Low Vol

May 347.00 -1.00 347.00 346.00 2,384 6,179

Jun 347.00 -1.00 347.00 346.00 2,384 6,179

Jul 347.00 -1.00 347.00 346.00 2,384 6,179

Aug 347.00 -1.00 347.00 346.00 2,384 6,179

Sep 347.00 -1.00 347.00 346.00 2,384 6,179

Oct 347.00 -1.00 347.00 346.00 2,384 6,179

Nov 347.00 -1.00 347.00 346.00 2,384 6,179

Dec 347.00 -1.00 347.00 346.00 2,384 6,179

Total 30,401 30,401

BARLEY CBOT (5,000 bu; mths; cents/bu)

Sett. Day's price change High Low Vol

May 114.75 -0.25 114.75 114.00 25 209

Jun 114.75 -0.25 114.75 114.00 25 209

Jul 114.75 -0.25 114.75 114.00 25 209

Aug 114.75 -0.25 114.75 114.00 25 209

Sep 114.75 -0.25 114.75 114.00 25 209

Oct 114.75 -0.25 114.75 114.00 25 209

Nov 114.75 -0.25 114.75 114.00 25 209

Dec 114.75 -0.25 114.75 114.00 25 209

Total 25 209

SOYBEANS CBOT (5,000 bu; mths; cents/bu)

Sett. Day

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

FINANCIAL TIMES

Number One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL
Tel: +44 171-873 3000 Telex: 922186 Fax: +44 171-407 5700

Saturday May 11 1996

Ownership and control

The relationship between institutional investors and industrialists in Britain has always involved a measure of friction. One manifestation of this is the unending war of words over so-called pre-emption rights, whereby existing shareholders are legally entitled to the first bite of the cherry when companies raise fresh equity capital.

The last outbreak of hostilities, in 1989, was sparked by Mr Norman Lamont, then at the Treasury. He was concerned, among other things, about the possibility that pre-emption rights discriminated against private share ownership.

Today it is the industrialists who are in the driving seat. Their worry is that the restrictions on their ability to raise capital directly in the global market place results in a higher cost of capital. A committee of the Confederation of British Industry recently asked the big investment institutions to consider permitting an increase in the amount of equity capital that companies can raise from outside the ranks of existing shareholders.

One way of looking at the arguments is in terms of what the 18th-century economist Adam Smith defined as the agency problem. By this he meant that agents cannot be relied on to look after the affairs of their principal as well as their own. In the present instance, the principals are the institutions, who enjoy the right to the residual profits of the enterprise and need protection from the depredations of management.

There have been numerous examples in financial history of company directors diluting the owners' stake by raising capital from new investors at a discount. This results in the existing owners subsidising the newcomers. The justification for pre-emption rights is that they protect the owners from the losses that result from these enforced subsidies.

Cost of capital

On the management side, the argument is that the standard British rights issue is costly for the company because share prices tend to fall on the announcement, which has the effect of raising the cost of capital. Their view, on this score at least, is more consonant with the shareholder concept, in which the company is seen as a trust where management seeks to balance the interests of shareholders, creditors, suppliers, employees and others in the long-term interest of the enterprise.

On this view, share ownership has little real meaning since it entails very intangible rights, which confer little control over

the management of physical assets. De facto ownership lies with the managers, because it is they who retain the right to settle the terms of unresolved implicit contracts within the enterprise, which is the theorists' way of talking about balancing stakeholder interests.

Such systems have worked well in Germany and Japan, where the culture lends itself to a less contractual approach to the resolution of conflicts of interest. In the United States, in contrast, the protection against dilution lies in seeking the assistance of the great army of American lawyers. Britain, as in so many things, is suspended in mid-Atlantic, with a mixture of legal and informal constraints. These have resulted in a fudge whereby companies are allowed to place relatively small amounts of shares outside the existing shareholder group.

Conflicts of interest

Yet the debate cannot be properly understood without bringing in the interests of a third group, the investment bankers. They have persuaded many industrialists that the American-style book building method of raising equity capital involves narrower discounts, and greater speed and flexibility. Yet they, too, are involved in potential conflicts of interest. With a US-style issue, both they and their investment clients will have privileged access to new shares. In effect, less of the transaction cost of the issue is pocketed by the institutions in the form of underwriting fees, while more is pocketed by the investment bankers, whether in fees or capital gains.

The running debate has been dogged by misunderstandings. Some industrialists fail to grasp, for example, that in a rights issue, a wider discount makes no difference to the cost of capital. Many of the assertions about the movement of share prices around the announcement and completion of share issues involve questionable assumptions about the efficiency of markets.

Where the industrialists do have a point is in questioning the cosy underwriting cartel that delivers fat fees to the institutions. There is plenty of room for reform here. On pre-emption it is another matter. The strongest feature of the argument, which goes round and round from one decade to the next, is that it is never backed by serious statistical data. Before pre-emption is eroded further there is a need for more detailed analysis on the movement of share prices and the cost of capital in both the UK and the US.

The communist-era red flag fluttered over Red Square, the Kremlin chief delivered a rousing tribute to his armies from the Lenin mausoleum, and a major espionage row erupted between Russia and the west which could lead to the expulsion of nine British diplomats.

It is a scene worthy of a John Le Carré novel, or a historical account of the Soviet regime. But it was played out for real this week in Moscow as Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, stepped up his campaign for re-election on June 16.

For western audiences and Russia's beleaguered democrats, this evocation of the symbols and practices of the Soviet Union seemed like a jarring mis-step by the man who first burst on to the world stage as leader of an anti-communist revolution. But most domestic observers saw Mr Yeltsin's self-conscious walk down memory lane as part of his two-headed campaign strategy: presenting himself as the only man who can save Russia from a red return, while adopting many of the symbols and much of the rhetoric of his opponents.

A few weeks ago, Mr Yeltsin's tactics seemed to be paying off. Since he signalled his turn to the left at the beginning of the year by sacking the most prominent reformers in his government and replacing them with hardline figures, his popularity had been steadily rising in the opinion polls.

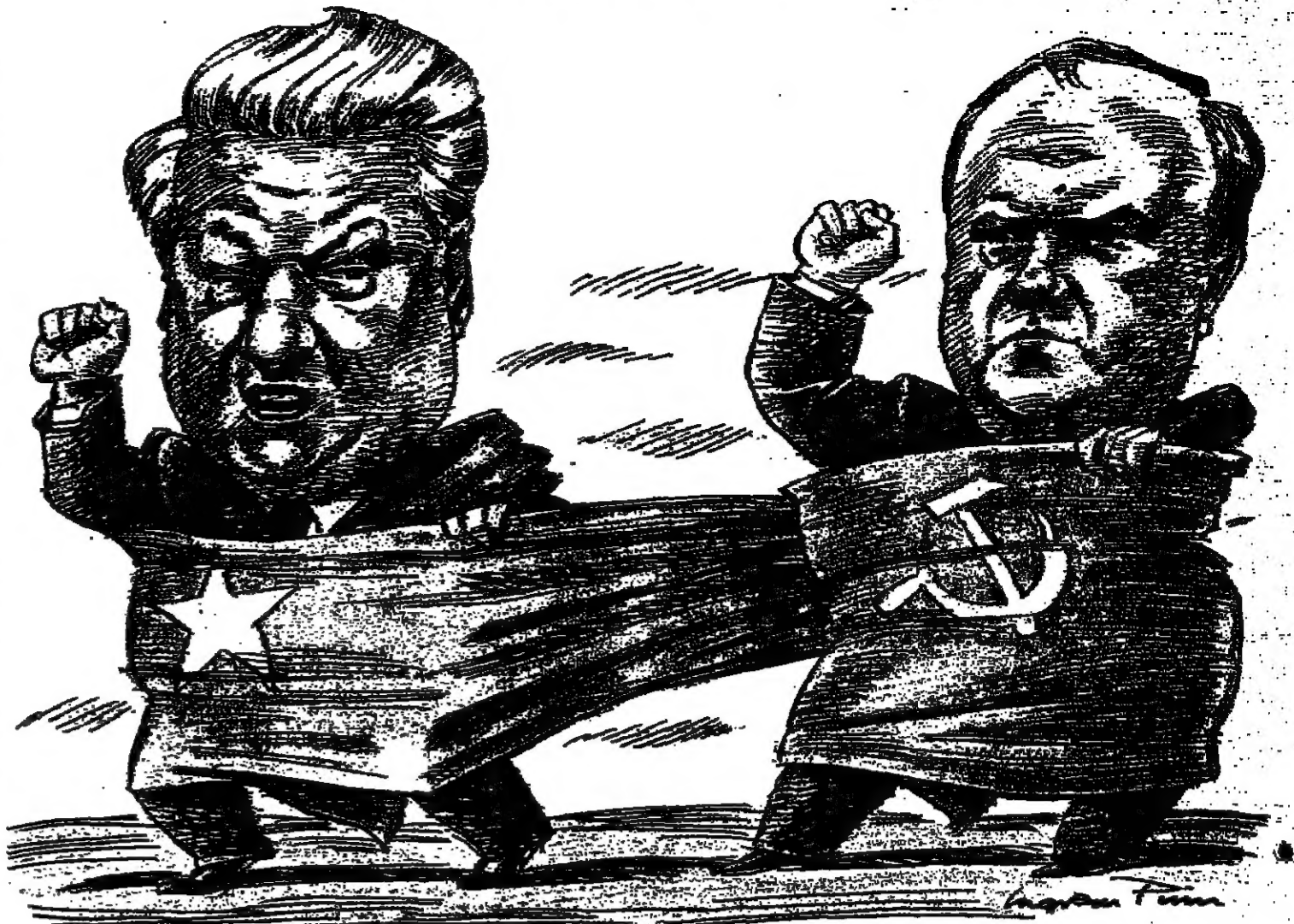
Investors had driven the Russian stock market to an all-time low point at the end of March, fearing a communist victory. But after deciding that Mr Yeltsin might win after all, they went on a buying spree last month which propelled the market up 40 per cent.

This week, however, some of Mr Yeltsin's friends have begun to worry that he may have gone too far in establishing his credentials as a tough defender of Russia's national interests. The threatened expulsion of the British diplomats accused of espionage, at the behest of the federal security service, the headline item to the KGB, triggered the largest diplomatic conflict between Russia and the west since the end of the cold war.

Moscow has not yet acted on its threat and the more pro-western foreign ministry appears to be fighting to avoid a showdown. But the incident has underscored how far Mr Yeltsin's administration has come since he took office in July 1995. Once seen as a defender of Russia's national interests, he has now become a defender of the western club of nations, has reverted to Soviet-style hostility.

Western leaders still hope that Russia will continue to faithfully, if sometimes unsteadily, develop into an open democracy with a market economy under Mr Yeltsin's aegis. They have thus reacted patiently to the spy scandal, giving the Kremlin time to reconcile warring factions. But neighbouring countries have responded more uneasily to signs that the Russian bear may be coming out of hibernation.

Two days after the British espionage row erupted, Russia and neighbouring Estonia became entangled in a tit-for-tat expulsion of diplomats. Moscow sought to justify the conflict in part with the creative explanation that a paramilitary organisation linked to the Estonian government had been smuggling arms to the IRA. Estonian officials denied the charges and warned that Mr Yeltsin might be trying to score political points by stirring up a conflict with Baltic



Draped in the enemy flag

Boris Yeltsin is using the rhetoric and symbols of his opponents in his election fight, says Chrystia Freeland

states, unpopular with in Russia because of their treatment of their Russian minorities.

Another, more subtle, sign of the growing suspicion with which many neighbouring countries view Mr Yeltsin's Russia is the popularity of Mr Dzhokhar Dudayev, the recently killed leader of Chechen separatists, in many states that ring Russia. Streets in Estonia, Latvia, Turkey and Ukraine have been named in honour of the Chechen fighter, and Polish parliamentarians this week rose in a brief tribute to him.

All the same, the consensus among even Russia's most fearful neighbours is that, no matter what his pre-election excesses may be, Mr Yeltsin is likely to be a friendlier Kremlin boss than Mr Gennady Zyuganov, his communist rival. Thus many foreign observers are now troubled by indications that Mr Yeltsin's supporters are becoming less confident of victory.

The clearest note of caution was sounded by Mr Anatoly Chubais, the mastermind behind privatisation who was dropped from the cabinet in January but is now a senior adviser on the Yeltsin campaign team. "In the last week, the rise [in opinion polls] has stopped," Mr Chubais said this week. "Now the hard part begins, when we have to work on the other side of the coin." Mr Yeltsin's communist-style

commemoration of Victory Day, the May 9 national holiday when Russia celebrates its second world war triumph, was one example of his mounting effort to woo traditional communist supporters.

But some of his most loyal backers appear concerned that even this all-out bid to win over leftist voters might fail. Among the leading figures who this week publicly called for a postponement of the elections was General Alexander Korzhakov, the chief of the president's security staff who is believed to be one of Mr Yeltsin's closest confidants.

Gen Korzhakov's proposal was taken up by Colonel-General Leonty Kuznetsov, commander of the Moscow military district and holder of a post that has traditionally been powerful because of its hold on the capital.

"We have often discussed what these elections could lead to," said Col Kuznetsov referring to conversations with several other military commanders. "And every time we came to the same conclusion - this is not the time to do this."

Mr Yeltsin has dissociated himself from his generals' suggestion. On Tuesday, he assured a concerned White House that he remained committed to free and fair

elections on June 16. He underscored that message before millions of Russian television viewers by publicly dressing down Gen Korzhakov for speaking out of turn.

Yet, despite the president's assurances, many of his supporters in the Russian elite continue to be quietly opposed to holding a genuinely open ballot on June 16. One senior Russian diplomat suggests privately that before the second round of voting, Mr Yeltsin and Mr Zyuganov - the two most likely front-runners - should reach an agreement on power-sharing, making a divisive national poll unnecessary.

A group of 13 leading businessmen has launched a campaign in support of much the same idea. Their official statement calls on the leading contenders to reach an unspecified "compromise" without which the country risks collapsing into "civil war". When pressed, senior members of the group say their hope is that Mr Yeltsin and the communists might be persuaded to form some sort of coalition government, avoiding the open electoral contest which they fear could plunge Russia into violent turmoil.

Mr Boris Beresovsky, president of a financial and industrial empire and a member of the group, argues that Russia's leading politicians must make a deal before polling day because the issues at stake are too

serious to be decided at the ballot box. "If we take elections in the US - the choice is between Democrats and Republicans," he says. "In the UK, the choice is between Tories and Labour. But in June, we will be asked to vote on the essential nature of our social and economic structure. A question like this cannot be decided by voting, it is only decided by civil war."

Beresovsky speaks for the tiny elite of well-connected Russians who have amassed fortunes over the past five years and fear a backlash from the overwhelming majority of ordinary Russians impoverished by the same transition. The communist party's brutal history in Russia and the economic disparity created by the painful shift from communism to capitalism make the concerns of the nouveau riches easy to understand.

The spectacle of Mr Yeltsin wrapping himself in the banner of the communist era this week has been uncomfortable for many of the western politicians and liberal Russians who once rallied behind the Kremlin chief. But if Mr Yeltsin pre-emptively over a democratic vote on June 16, and abides by its result, he will prove that he remains the leader of the most daring democratic revolution in Russian history - despite his newfound fondness for communist rhetoric.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Number One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL

We are keen to encourage letters from readers around the world. Letters may be faxed to +44 171-873 5938 (please set fax to "fax"). E-mail: letters.editor@ft.com Translation may be available for letters written in the main international languages.

Toy industry in need of international safety code

From Mr Bill Jordan and others.

Sir, Three years ago yesterday, 188 mostly women workers burned to death in a fire at the Kader Toy Factory in Thailand. Workers were trapped in the factory by barred windows and locked doors. This fire is a tragic but accurate example of the problems which occur as multinational companies scour the world in the search of the cheapest labour.

Our organisations have been pressing the international toy industry to adopt an international code of conduct that would apply to

the companies that are awarded contracts to make the toys. With 75 per cent of all toys sold in the UK coming from Asia, consumers want to know that the toys they buy are not produced under conditions that cause the death of workers in developing countries.

So far, some toy industry associations, notably the British Toy and Hobby Association, have taken the first step by acknowledging the responsibility of companies for the working conditions imposed by their sub-contractors, and they have

adopted guidelines that they pledged to apply to these sub-contractors. But only when the guidelines are backed by an independent system of monitoring will consumers be sure that standards are being observed.

The third anniversary of the Kader fire - the worst factory fire in history - would provide an excellent occasion for the International Council of Toy Industries meeting in Brazil later this month to decide to adopt a global code of conduct with independent monitoring putting an

end to the controversy and the scandal of how toys are made.

Bill Jordan, general secretary, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, John Monks, general secretary, Trades Union Congress, Hilary Conley, head of education, Catholic Institute for International Relations, Harriet Lamb, acting director, World Development Movement, c/o World Development Movement, 25 Beehive Place, London SW9 7QR, UK

Unlikely way to lower pollution

From Mr Anthony Angelopoulos.

Sir, With regard to your article on pollution permits ("For sale: a licence to pollute", May 6), it is unlikely that trading such permits the way other securities are traded will lead to a significant reduction of pollution levels. If we regard the permit as a derivative asset where the underlying security is the actual cost of reducing gas emissions by, say, a tonne of sulphur dioxide, the permit may trade at prices higher or lower than the value of the underlying security, depending on the severity of the penalties imposed by the national authorities in case of law infringements.

This leads to two consequences: ● Production costs in countries with strict pollution legislation would be increased by the amount permits would cost polluting companies. On the contrary, companies in countries with lax legislation would prefer to break the law rather than buy permits. ● Your article implies that trading permits would lead to more cost-effective pollution abatement. This rests on the assumption that there is a trade-off between the cost of buying a permit and the cost of abating pollution by the amount covered by the permit. Unfortunately, the true trade-off is between the cost of buying a permit and the cost of breaking the law. Only if the legislation concerning pollution (levels allowed and penalties imposed) were uniform worldwide would the conclusions of your article be valid.

Anthony Angelopoulos, 23 Donspar Street, 114 71 Athens, Greece

Risk that gives additional value to Eurotunnel shareholders

From Mr Arthur Smith.

Sir, With reference to the Lex column analysis of Eurotunnel's equity value ("Agreeing to disagree", May 6), I would like to attempt to explain why the equity value is above that indicated by Lex's analysis.

Lex points out that the value of Eurotunnel's assets is £6bn and that the banks are owed £5.5bn, and concludes that the equity is, therefore, worth £0.5bn, being the difference. Lex goes on to point out that the share price of Eurotunnel

indicates a much higher equity value than £0.5bn and suggests that this is not logical.

However, this apparent illogicality can be explained. Equity gives holders the right to participate in the entire upside associated with a company's asset value but limits the downside participation to the value of the equity - so there is an asymmetry of risks. This asymmetry has value.

The concept may be illustrated through the use of an example. Let us assume that Eurotunnel assets

have three possible values, each reflecting a different outcome in the cross-channel transport market, £6bn, £5bn or £4bn. Let us also assume that each value is equally likely. The value of equity in the three cases is zero in the downside case and £0.5bn and £1.5bn in the other two cases (as the banks take £5.5bn). The average value of the assets is £5bn, but the average value of the equity is £1bn, not £0.5bn as would be concluded from the Lex analysis.

This shows that the variability in

the value of Eurotunnel's assets gives its equity additional value above that calculated by Lex. This type of analysis is useful in explaining the value of equity in situations where this asymmetry of risks exists. That is, when the equity value is close to zero and when the value of the company's assets are highly variable - both are true in the Eurotunnel case.

Arthur Smith, 9 Harrington Road, London SW6 1RW, UK

Vagueness about how an extended Nato will work in practice

From Mr Edward Hugo.

Sir, While its members enthusiastically endorse the size of their armed forces and shrink their physical presence in Germany, Nato (and your editorial "Expanding Nato eastwards", May 2) promotes the extension of the alliance without suggesting how this might work in practice. Nato

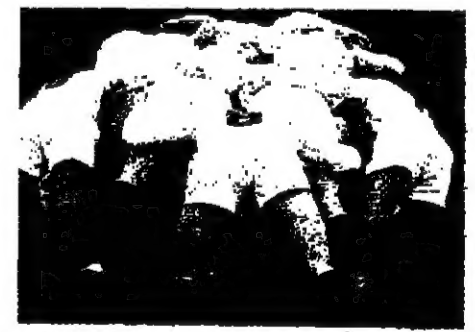
already has a majority of members who, taking for granted the massive US commitment to the common cause, under-contribute men and equipment. It cannot afford many more part-timers. What new members should provide in their own defence remains vague.

The Estonian foreign minister ("Prosperity without security", May

3) obligingly solves his neighbour Sweden and Finland of any security obligations in the region and introduces the concept of "being close" to Nato (whatever that might mean). Naturally the US and Germany must remain responsible for security overall. No word here of what the Baltics might contribute in their own defence.

Hopefully Mr Javier Solana, Nato secretary-general, is aware of how effective military guarantees handed out by the British and French in 1938-39 proved to be. Assuredly the Czechs and Poles are.

Edward Hugo, Am Rockerkopf 26, 68719 Hofheim, Germany



SCUM DOWN



BOTTOMS UP

MONDAY'S BEST MATCH: Tottenham vs. Arsenal	11 May
CLUBS TO WATCH: Chelsea vs. Liverpool	17 May-25 August
THE DRAGON: Tottenham vs. Liverpool	21-24 May
THE DRAGON: Tottenham vs. Liverpool	6-10 June
THE DRAGON: Tottenham vs. Liverpool	6 June
THE DRAGON: Tottenham vs. Liverpool	9 June-14 August
THE DRAGON: Tottenham vs. Liverpool	18-21 June
THE DRAGON: Tottenham vs. Liverpool	24 June-7 July
THE DRAGON: Tottenham vs. Liverpool	28 June-31 July
THE DRAGON: Tottenham vs. Liverpool	3-7 July

Veuve Clicquot
CHAMPAGNE OF THE SEASON

Man in the News • F.W. de Klerk

Chief of a divided tribe

Michael Holman on the former president's return to the campaign trail

A whiff of nostalgia and a hint of Schadenfreude were in the crisp autumn air of Cape Town this week.

Frederik Willem de Klerk, South Africa's former president, was back on centre stage, and enjoying every minute. As he entered the Cape of Good Hope auditorium to announce the withdrawal of his National party from the government of national unity, it seemed as if his batteries had been recharged by the prospect of hitting the campaign trail.

The coalition led by President Nelson Mandela to run South Africa had ended, de Klerk declared. His hint the day before that he was going to leave had caused the rand to crash and unsettled financial markets. "See what will happen without me," was de Klerk's implicit message.

Perhaps the remarkable thing is that the coalition lasted as long as it did.

De Klerk and Mandela had formed one of the oddest couples in the history of politics: the 60-year-old Afrikaner, stocky and balding, chain-smoker and whisky drinker, and the 77-year-old African, tall and slim, greying and abstemious. The Boer and the black man, one the product of white rule, born in Johannesburg, and nurtured

by the party that gave the role of apartheid, the other a proud Xhosa of royal lineage, who grew up barefoot in the rolling green hills of the Transkei. Both were thoroughly prepared for high office by their respective tribes.

De Klerk - as co-architect of the transition from apartheid to democracy, and joint Nobel peace prize winner with Mandela - could have become a South African elder statesman.

At first he loyally played the role allotted him as deputy president, travelling the world extolling the virtues of South Africa, a living, articulate symbol of the success of one of the world's most remarkable revolutions.

But the role ill-suited him. At heart he is a politician, yearning to take the gloves off, uncomfortable in the role of second fiddle, and frustrated by the restraints the office imposed on him.

Now F.W., as every South African calls him, is back

doing what he loves best: politics.

He is determined to rejuvenate the National party, his supporters say, and will now hammer home the main themes he outlined in Cape Town on Thursday: the need to entrench multi-party politics, the importance of a strong opposition, a market-driven economy, transparency and integrity in public life - qualities, it should be said, not associated with the National party during the 40 or so years it ran apartheid South Africa.

But it is debatable whether F.W. is the man to lead the "new National party".

Many senior officials argue privately that he should hand over to a younger successor, preferably black. But there is no candidate on the horizon, and de Klerk does not encourage the prospect.

"The fact is that F.W. is back in business because he can't help it," says one long-serving party member. "It's in his blood."

His great-grandfather was a senator, his aunt was married to the former National party prime minister J.G. Strydom, and his father served as the party's secretary-general.

In his early teens he was member of the Jeugbond, the youth section of the National party. He was educated in the heartland of Afrikanerdom, the Potchefstroom University for Christian High Education, where he met his wife Marike Willemse. After taking legal articles and practising as an attorney in Vereeniging, he began a rapid climb up the political ladder.

By his mid-30s he was an MP, minister of home affairs, and leader of the House of Assembly. On the resignation of President P.W. Botha, he was elected leader of the NP in January 1989.

Nothing in his career seemed to have prepared him for the role he was to play in South Africa's extraordinary and relatively peaceful revolution. Many have speculated that de Klerk had a Dama-

scene conversion. He denies it, and there is no evidence of it. Instead, there was a gradual recognition among senior figures in the party from the 1970s onwards that apartheid would not work.

But de Klerk's decision to free Mandela in February 1990 and begin the process that would end white rule did take great courage. The time between Mandela's release and South Africa's democratic elections in 1994 was a dangerous as well as a painful process for him. It left the Afrikaner community to which he belongs deeply divided. Once monolithic, today it is irreparably split. The pragmatists who accepted change are in the majority, but there are also many racists, as well as right-wing romantics, who still yearn for what their trekking forebears sought 150 years ago - a homeland for the Volk.

Right from the start, says Mandela in his autobiography, *Long Walk to Freedom*, he saw de Klerk as a man with whom he could do business. But the

relationship has been under strain for some time. "At heart," says an official of the ruling African National Congress close to the president, "Mandela does not really trust F.W."

Now F.W. faces what many see as an impossible task. He has to continue the battle to free the National party of its shameful past and win over black voters if he is to succeed in his objective of turning it into South Africa's largest party.

Many South Africans agree with de Klerk that a strong opposition in a multi-party system is essential for a healthy democracy. Whether the National party, with its predominantly white base, led by de Klerk, can provide the quality of opposition needed to transcend the racial divisions of the past is another matter. But even if de Klerk fails, his place in history is assured.

Mandela's tribute could serve as his political epitaph. F.W. de Klerk, writes his triumphant adversary, "had the courage to admit that a terrible wrong had been done to our country and people through the imposition of apartheid" and "the foresight to understand and accept that the people of South Africa must... together determine what they want to make of their future."



Raymond Snoddy on how digital broadcasting will offer more choice

Media moguls tune in to the new technology

After a gestation period of 18 months Mr John Birt, director-general of the BBC, this week finally gave birth to his vision of the digital future of television.

According to Mr Birt, "at some point in the future" viewers will be able to tune in to television and radio from all over the world. They will have instant news, videoconferencing, home shopping and banking - not to mention new movies and live sport on a pay-per-view basis.

That and much more will be available, the BBC believes, on the same machine, a cross between a television set and a personal computer. It will have a large, flat screen on the wall just a few inches thick and will show high-quality pictures with CD-quality "surround sound".

No-one knows for sure when such a vision will become a reality, or indeed whether the result really will be the total convergence of the computing, telecommunications and broadcasting industries into a single box. But as Mr Birt emphasised on Thursday, "the journey has already started".

That journey is now being contemplated by most of the UK's broadcasters. Digital technology turns the television signal into a stream of information which allows the picture to be easily manipulated. In particular the digital system greatly increases the number of channels as it compresses the information, allowing several channels to be transmitted where one analogue station is now, greatly reducing the cost of broadcasting.

British Sky Broadcasting formally announced earlier this week that it has leased half a satellite totally devoted to digital television, and intends to launch a UK digital satellite television service in the autumn of next year. To begin with, BSkyB plans to offer perhaps 200 channels, but the launch of further digital satellites is already scheduled and the aim is to move to a package offering up to 500 channels almost specifically at the UK market, apart from much more television BSkyB will offer interactive services such as home shopping and banking.

On a more modest level, the ITV companies this week took a small step towards their own digital television initiative. No cheques have yet been signed, but the likelihood is that they will launch digital terrestrial television services. Digital DTT to existing broadcasters such as ITV and the BBC. ITV will at least broadcast its existing channel in digital form and a second channel - ITV 2 - will probably be added, offering a mixture of new and library programmes.

Apart from digital satellite and digital terrestrial there are two other potential routes that can be taken by the digital revolution. These are via digital cable, and the transmission of digital television pictures down the existing telephone networks from large video servers or databases.

The BBC intends to stand aloof from the technical battle, mainly because it does not have the finance to do anything else. It will offer programmes that could be broadcast digitally, but will not back any particular method of digital transmission. "We are not going to make the mistake of backing any one horse," Mr Birt says.

But what will the digital televi-

sion race mean for owners of existing television sets? And what services are likely to be available, at what extra cost?

No one will be forced to throw away a television set when digital arrives with its higher-quality pictures and sound. The transition from black and white to the new system now used for both colour and black and white took 15 years. Equally, the present analogue television service will co-exist with digital for a long time, possibly 10 to 15 years. Although the government would like to move all broadcasting to digital in order to release frequencies for mobile communications, the authorities will not dare upset voters with "old" television sets until their numbers have dwindled.

BSkyB will also have to run its analogue service alongside digital for many years because all its 5.3m subscribers have analogue decoders and will have to be weaned off the old technology.

Those who want to receive digital services with their existing sets will have to buy a separate digital decoder. This will probably retail for just under £400 at first for digital satellite, and just over £300 for digital terrestrial. A combined decoder is likely to cost about £470. BSkyB is however planning to subsidise the decoders with some of the revenues from home shopping services, and it believes the price at the time of launch can be reduced to £300.

A large number of new channels will be offered by BSkyB, including eight new channels from Granada Television for specialist programming on motoring, health and beauty. But between 60 and 100 of the channels will be devoted to films. By broadcasting the same recent film on perhaps six channels at different times viewers will never be more than 20 or 30 minutes away from the start of a film.

The other big draw - perhaps the biggest of all - is exclusive sport. The extra capacity that digital offers means that many channels can be devoted to sport. If BSkyB manages to agree terms with the football's English Premier League next month then the centrepiece of the launch of Sky digital next year could be the simultaneous appearance of all Premier League games every Saturday in return for an "electronic season ticket".

The planned BBC offerings are necessarily less grandiose. They are however carefully balanced to ensure that some new services are available to licence-payers at no extra cost - apart from the receiving equipment - while others available through subscription are designed to supplement BBC income. As well as offering BBC1 and BBC2 in widescreen format, the corporation is planning to offer a 24-hour television news channel, extra regional programmes and CD-quality radio services as its "digital dividend" to viewers and listeners. The subscription services are likely to include channels concentrating on areas such as wildlife, drama and the arts.



John Biffen (left) and Norman Fowler (right) omit remuneration in the register, as allowed by Nolan (third from left) but disclose it in company reports under Greenbury (second from left)

Now you see it, now you don't

Information on earnings withheld by MPs is disclosed in company reports, say William Lewis and James Blitz

When the register of MPs' interests was published this week, there was some surprise at the identity of the MP who had declared the largest earnings from consultancy and directorship agreements. It was Mr Roy Hattersley, the former deputy leader of the Labour party, who reported remuneration of more than £100,000 from writing for two newspapers.

In contrast, several Conservative MPs with substantial company directorships declared no figure for remuneration from them. They may have earned more than Mr Hattersley, but they said the earnings were not a consequence of their membership of the Commons.

Yet where the directorships are in quoted public companies, the information denied in the Commons register is readily available under new rules introduced by the Greenbury report on executive pay and enforced by the Stock Exchange.

For example, Sir Norman Fowler, the former Cabinet minister and Conservative MP for Sutton Coldfield, discloses in the register of MPs' interests that he is a director of Midland Independent Newspapers and has a shareholding in the papers and a shareholding in his remuneration from the company or for his shareholding - nor is he required to give these.

However, the figures for Midland Independent Newspapers are given in its 1995 annual report. This discloses that Sir Norman, the company's chairman, was paid £34,687 last

year, up from £30,234 in 1994, and that "he receives no pension or other benefits, nor participates in any of the current bonus or share option schemes". Elsewhere, it notes Sir Norman held 86,051 Midland Independent Newspaper shares on December 31.

Another example is Mr John Biffen, also a former Cabinet minister and Conservative MP for North Shropshire. In the register Mr Biffen discloses three directorships, including Glynwed International, a public company. Like Sir Norman he does not state earnings from outside interests. Glynwed's 1995 report states he earned £30,000 last year, unchanged in 1994.

The new MPs' register is the first since the publication of the report by the committee on standards in public life, chaired by Lord Nolan, the law lord. It was intended to dispel the image of sleaze created by revelations of MPs profiting from their parliamentary positions. It requires MPs to give details of consultancy and directorship agreements and other outside interests.

According to the new rules an MP has to put down a payment figure only when entering "an agreement which involves the provision of services in his capacity as a member of parliament". And while some have made six-page consultancy agreements available for inspection, others have provided only handwritten

notes to the Commons registrar who is responsible for collating the information.

Directors of public companies, by contrast, must disclose much fuller details of earnings under new rules devised by the Greenbury committee on executive pay, chaired by Sir Richard Greenbury who is also chairman of Marks and Spencer.

Although the report of the Greenbury committee was published less than a year ago, a majority of companies have already implemented most of its key recommendations according to Arthur Andersen. In an executive pay study published on Monday, the accountancy firm concluded that "the general level of compliance with the Greenbury disclosure requirements has already improved dramatically".

It found that 85 per cent of companies were disclosing all the information required by the Greenbury report. And these companies are using the tables for presenting pay and other remuneration details recommended by Greenbury - helping shareholders to understand the details and make comparisons.

Directors' contracts are available for inspection by members of the public in the period between publication of the annual report and the company's annual general meeting - revealing information not available in the MPs' register.

For example, the contract which

Mr Douglas Hurd, former foreign secretary and Conservative MP for Witney, has with National Westminster Bank can be examined by shareholders and members of the public for several weeks each year.

This shows he earns a salary of £250,000 - information not disclosed in the register of MPs' interests.

Mr Brian Friedman, head of Arthur Andersen's compensation and benefits practice, suggests MPs should be under the same pressures as directors to disclose earnings.

"MPs are elected in the same way as directors, and there are equally valid concerns about disclosure and accountability," he says. "There is no reason why MPs should not earn £200,000 or £300,000. But the issue is about disclosing such earnings so constituents can make up their minds."

Sir Richard Greenbury agrees on the primacy of disclosure. "The amount of disclosure is what forces you to think twice about what you are doing," he says. Under his committee's rules "shareholders do not have to be geniuses to see that there are abuses. They can, or not as the case may be, do something about it, but at least they know what is happening."

One reason for the success of the Greenbury committee has been its largely voluntary nature. For all the involvement of institutional investors and other outside bodies such

as the Confederation of British Industry, companies say they devised the rules and are now implementing them. Sir Richard Greenbury is seen in the City as "one of us", a figure respected for his own corporate background.

Although MPs drew up their disclosure rules and voted them through the Commons, many feel they have been imposed by the outsiders who made up the Nolan committee. Lord Nolan, in particular, is seen by MPs as one of the judges who is overly keen to interfere in the sovereignty of parliament - an accusation also raised against Sir Richard Scott, who chaired the arms to Iraq inquiry.

Many MPs also argue that constituents have less reason to know what they earn than shareholders do for directors. A director's salary represents the use of company share capital, they argue - something shareholders have a right to know. What MPs earn from outside work does not represent public money, they say - and thus need not be disclosed.

Such critics of greater disclosure are likely to continue to defend the privacy of their outside interests strongly - and with good reason according to one Tory MP.

"I'll make no bones about it, I get 10 times more doing odd jobs in the City than I do sitting around in this place," he says. "If that got out, people would start questioning how much time I could spend on constituency matters - and why I was here at all."

many of his company's new veggie-burgers he was selling. Mr Dominique Nowak, manager of a branch of the Hippopotamus restaurant chain just off the Champs Elysees, was blunt and to the point: "I'm selling between one and one per day."

The streets of the French capital, traditionally something of a desert for non-carnivores, are still far from thronged with vegetarian restaurants. Pariscope, the weekly listings magazine, carries just two, although a recently published guide to meatless eating in the city runs to 24 pages.

Even if the number of such restaurants is slowly growing, there is no guarantee that the food they serve will taste very good. Mr Laurence Phillips, author of the guide, says: "Everything the French think about good food goes out of the window. If it's good for you, it's not supposed to taste good."

Nonetheless, attitudes towards vegetarians are starting to shift. As Le Monde, the highbrow newspaper, recently put it: "It is becoming possible to admit that you don't really like meat without being taken for a killjoy."

* Meatless and fancy free in Paris. Available from Travelscene. Tel: 0181-227-8300

Mad cow disease is not the only reason the French are eating less red meat, says David Owen

Why diners have carved a slice out of beef's popularity

France's love affair with red meat is under severe strain. Beef sales in the most carnivorous large country in the European Union fell by a quarter in the second half of March and consumption of offal was down by 27 per cent, compared to the previous two weeks.

According to Secodip, the monitoring organisation that supplied these statistics, it is impossible to predict "when, and at what level, French beef consumption will stabilise".

In the meantime, the unthinkable is happening: battalions of diners in Europe's gastronomic capital are foregoing *filet mignon*, turning their noses up at *tête de veau* and, above all, refusing *rognons*.

"People are hesitant," says Mr Marcel Montigny, who runs the gastronomic section of Fauchon, the upmarket Paris grocer and delicatessen. "I am selling far fewer veal-based cooked products and far less terrine."

Such figures are perhaps not surprising - even in France - at a time when the problem of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or mad cow disease, is receiving so much publicity.

But the fall in consumption of beef and offal has not, so far,

resulted in increased sales of other types of meat, as might have been expected.

Instead, Secodip recorded a 5 per cent reduction in sales of other meats over the same March period, in spite of an increase in consumption of lamb and mutton, which it attributed to preparations for Easter at the beginning of April.

Mr Montigny's experience bears out this statistic. "I was expecting an explosion in poultry sales," he says. "But no - I am scarcely selling any more than I was before." Moreover, beef consumption has been declining in France for some time: it fell more than 8 per cent from 26.4 kilograms a head in 1980 to 24.2kg in 1990. Veal consumption dropped from 6.7kg a head to 5.6kg over the same period. Clearly, BSE is not the only reason people are eating less red meat.

Other factors include the increasing health consciousness of consumers, the ready availability of other sources of protein, such as fish and eggs, and the tendency of



French households to devote less time to preparing meals. According to Mr Louis Oregna, director of the Meat Information Centre, the industry body, the decline in beef consumption in the 1980s was due primarily to doctors advising people to eat less red meat. This led to a tendency on the

part of better-off consumers, particularly women, to cut back on beef consumption "for reasons of health".

This situation was exacerbated, Mr Oregna believes, by the apparent reluctance of the meat industry to provide consumers with more information about their products, in particular the country of origin.

In recent years, he argues, the increase in unemployment has resulted in a decline in red meat consumption among the less well-off, who had tended not to cut back in the 1980s. "In the last three years, these people have had to eat less for economic reasons," he says.

Not that Paris's culinary landscape is set to change overnight. France remains one of the few countries where you can still find retailers dealing exclusively with products made from one category of bird or animal, whether it be horsemeat or foie gras.

It will take a long time to empty the lunchtime bistros of the borders of *steak-frites* eaters. Asked how

Weekend FT

A nation is stirred by one man's search for his son

The missing people of Turkey have become a national issue, thanks to the efforts of a distraught parent's solo campaign. John Barham reports

One evening four years ago, Abdülhamit Özbiçici did not come home. After waiting up all night for him, his distraught parents began combing their neighbourhood but could not find him. Then they began searching Istanbul's hospitals, police stations, morgues and asylums. Still they did not find him.

They never heard from Abdülhamit again. Unlike an increasing number of disappearances in Turkey, security police are not suspected of involvement: Abdülhamit, though 22, has a mental age of 10.

His father Ismet has been searching for his son for four years and has used up nearly all his money. "Nobody wanted to know. I went to the newspapers and television but they said it was not newsworthy. I went to the president and the prime minister. I saw the interior minister and he said there was nothing he could do," Özbiçici recalls.

He quickly discovered that Abdülhamit's disappearance was not unique. There are no statistics on missing people, but between 3,000 and 5,000 are estimated to disappear in Turkey every year, many of them children. Few are ever seen again. The true figure, however, is probably much higher.

Although disappearances are common in other countries, Özbiçici was amazed that Turkey has no government body, police department or missing persons bureau dealing actively with the problem.

"People would just sit at home and cry and do nothing,"

he says, "or they would spend all their money looking for their loved one until they could do no more." However, Özbiçici says: "I refused to accept my son's disappearance." His case is all the more poignant because a second son, also severely handicapped, has since died.

Instead, he has mounted almost single-handedly a successful campaign that has made disappearances a national issue. Özbiçici started an organisation, the Association

of the Relatives of the Missing. "People thought I was crazy," he says in the association's headquarters, a dingy apartment with walls covered in press clippings and photos of missing people.

Özbiçici, a dishevelled man who cannot stop talking, says the disappeared fall into four broad categories. Some are severely injured or killed in road accidents and cannot be traced because they were not carrying identity documents. Others - like Abdülhamit - are mentally handicapped and get lost.

Almost half are runaways, of the Relatives of the Missing. "People thought I was crazy," he says in the association's headquarters, a dingy apartment with walls covered in press clippings and photos of missing people.

Özbiçici, a dishevelled man who cannot stop talking, says the disappeared fall into four broad categories. Some are severely injured or killed in road accidents and cannot be traced because they were not carrying identity documents. Others - like Abdülhamit - are mentally handicapped and get lost.

Almost half are runaways, of the Relatives of the Missing. "People thought I was crazy," he says in the association's headquarters, a dingy apartment with walls covered in press clippings and photos of missing people.

Özbiçici, a dishevelled man who cannot stop talking, says the disappeared fall into four broad categories. Some are severely injured or killed in road accidents and cannot be traced because they were not carrying identity documents. Others - like Abdülhamit - are mentally handicapped and get lost.

Almost half are runaways, of the Relatives of the Missing. "People thought I was crazy," he says in the association's headquarters, a dingy apartment with walls covered in press clippings and photos of missing people.

Özbiçici, a dishevelled man who cannot stop talking, says the disappeared fall into four broad categories. Some are severely injured or killed in road accidents and cannot be traced because they were not carrying identity documents. Others - like Abdülhamit - are mentally handicapped and get lost.

Almost half are runaways, of the Relatives of the Missing. "People thought I was crazy," he says in the association's headquarters, a dingy apartment with walls covered in press clippings and photos of missing people.

Özbiçici, a dishevelled man who cannot stop talking, says the disappeared fall into four broad categories. Some are severely injured or killed in road accidents and cannot be traced because they were not carrying identity documents. Others - like Abdülhamit - are mentally handicapped and get lost.

Almost half are runaways, of the Relatives of the Missing. "People thought I was crazy," he says in the association's headquarters, a dingy apartment with walls covered in press clippings and photos of missing people.

Özbiçici, a dishevelled man who cannot stop talking, says the disappeared fall into four broad categories. Some are severely injured or killed in road accidents and cannot be traced because they were not carrying identity documents. Others - like Abdülhamit - are mentally handicapped and get lost.

Almost half are runaways, of the Relatives of the Missing. "People thought I was crazy," he says in the association's headquarters, a dingy apartment with walls covered in press clippings and photos of missing people.

Özbiçici, a dishevelled man who cannot stop talking, says the disappeared fall into four broad categories. Some are severely injured or killed in road accidents and cannot be traced because they were not carrying identity documents. Others - like Abdülhamit - are mentally handicapped and get lost.

teenagers dreaming of streets paved with gold in Istanbul or escaping unhappy home lives. Many drift into crime or prostitution. A large number of the missing are kidnapped. Turkey's Human Rights Association says about 20 political suspects "disappear" every month after being held by police or security forces.

Özbiçici also hears of professional kidnappers taking small children for sale to illegal adoption rings or pressing them into work in back street workshops. Child labour is common in Turkey. About 1m children aged between six and 14 work, usually with their parents' consent, either to learn a trade as apprentices or as workers or street vendors simply to help put bread on the table.

But Özbiçici admits he does not really know what happens to missing infants. "We know little of these cases," he says. "We just imagine what could happen to them. When we locate someone, we do not ask the family what they were doing. We do not have time to find out what happened to them. Families do not want publicity. Our objective is not to lose any more children."

Distressing, he adds: "It is very hard to find children after they have been abducted." Children's features change as they grow up. Few can fend for themselves or find their way home. Thousands vanish without trace every year. Hatice Serper, 7, was taken from the front garden of her house while playing a year ago. Little Tarkan Ok was abducted by a man while playing in a park.

Young girls often leave home dreaming of becoming film stars or pop singers, or are seduced by promises of marriage. Few fulfil their ambition. Many are raped and sold into prostitution by their supposed fiancés.

Pimps, known in Turkish as *peşevan*, recruit women as prostitutes, put them to work and even trade them in a shadowy white slave market. *Peşevan* are known to "sell" women to brothels, where their identity documents are held. The women are often made to sign a blank promissory note, shackling them to the brothel by debt. As a rule, women can leave only after "refunding" the madam.

Turkey's brothels are privately owned but supervised by the state. A report in 1991 by Anti Slavery International, a London-based group, said:

"At its worst the scheme acts as a state sanctioned system of forced prostitution." Hakan Gürtop, a crime reporter for national television, believes that about one-fifth of women working in brothels are there against their will.

The brothels are grim, prison-like places surrounded by high walls. Invariably there is a single entry, an iron gate guarded round the clock by municipal security men who check the identities of those who enter and leave.

Özbiçici and helpers from his association have mounted "rescues" of prostitutes. Recently he helped free Keşban Gündoğan, a 22-year-old woman working as a prostitute in a small town nightclub. In February he found Bütül Çokbalıran, a mentally handicapped girl now aged 17, in the city of Konya 13 months after she went missing. Her kidnappers kept her as a prostitute servicing truck drivers. Releasing women from licensed brothels is clearly more difficult.

In spite of Özbiçici's efforts, the government has done little to improve its procedures for tracing missing persons.

He first tried to publicise the plight of the disappeared in a book with pictures and information on as many people as he could find. The book attracted scant attention. Then he found sponsors to pay for calendars with pictures of missing people for shopkeepers to hang in their stores, but this also failed to have much effect.

"One day," he says, "when I was really fed up I saw a bus go by covered in advertising for sausages. So I thought why shouldn't I put pictures of the missing on the bus? I didn't have any money, so I went to the town hall. After 32 meetings, they accepted." The first bus covered with pictures of 260 missing people took to the streets of Istanbul at the end of last year.

Suddenly, the drama of the disappeared became a national issue. The bus was featured in television news programmes and in newspapers. An elec-

tion campaign was launched. "We know little of these cases," he says. "We just imagine what could happen to them. When we locate someone, we do not ask the family what they were doing. We do not have time to find out what happened to them. Families do not want publicity. Our objective is not to lose any more children."

Distressing, he adds: "It is very hard to find children after they have been abducted." Children's features change as they grow up. Few can fend for themselves or find their way home. Thousands vanish without trace every year. Hatice Serper, 7, was taken from the front garden of her house while playing a year ago. Little Tarkan Ok was abducted by a man while playing in a park.

Young girls often leave home dreaming of becoming film stars or pop singers, or are seduced by promises of marriage. Few fulfil their ambition. Many are raped and sold into prostitution by their supposed fiancés.

CONTENTS



Travel: Golf for all seasons - a four-page special VI-IX

Perspectives: An FT lunch date with a murderer III

Fashions: Cosmo boy goes in search of Cosmo girl V

Sports: Nick Faldo: Europe's finest golfer in profile X



Royalty: Heirs and grouches and the Belgian monarchy XX

Food and Drink: Jancis Robinson on cheap Bordeaux thrills XVIII

Books: Who wants to be a billionaire? XII, XIII

Arts: XIV, XV
Arts Guide: XIX
Books: XX, XXI
Bridge, Chess, Crossword: XX
Fashion: V
Food & Drink: XVIII
Gardening: XVI
How To Spend It: IV
Motoring: X
Perspectives: II, III
Property: XVI, XVII
Small Businesses: I
Sport: VII
Travel: VI-IX
Weekend Investor: XIX, XXII

Continued on Page II

Joe Rogaly

That continental embrace

How will Britain survive its battle with the EU? History provides the answer

There may always be an England, but the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is for the chop. Yes, into little pieces. Perhaps there will be life for its constituent parts within a mini-federation, maybe as a republic, certainly as an entity within greater Europe. But UK of GB and NI? Forget it.

We cannot be sure when the end of the artificial Anglo-Celtic nation-state will come. As an indication, fast-forward for a moment to the year 2050. Can you believe that Ulster will still be part of the kingdom? That Scotland will be governed from London? That the ruling authority will be an hereditary monarchy? That, if a European Union then exists, the islands that lie off its north-western shore will stand outside, alone and aloof?

Before proceeding, let us clear away a small obstacle. Those of us who argue that the answer to every one of the above questions is a simple "no" may be kidding ourselves. For most of my adult life I have wanted to see a true revolution in Britain. Antici-

pating such an event could be wishful thinking. This, after all, is the week in which the European government celebrated Europe Day by loudly not flying the EU flag.

Again, yet another contra-EU opinion poll appeared on Thursday. It indicated an overwhelming majority opposed to sterling's absorption into a single currency. The picture builds itself up. A gleeful shudder, as at a naughty word said in a classroom, ran down some British spines when Helmut Kohl was forced-fed British beef in Downing Street last week. There will be a giggle, of similar origins, when Jacques Chirac arrives in the next few days.

There is no escaping the message. The mood is decidedly sceptical. We have to admit the possibility that Britain will rip away the Velcro that binds it to the union across the sea. Perhaps this is the beginning of the end.

I think not. The opposite explanation for what is going on seems more plausible. British nationalists are writhing and flailing their arms about in a last-ditch attempt to avoid the inevitable. The kingdom

did find a role after it lost the empire. It became part of the American shadow empire. Now it is being nudged out of that and into the EU. The present wave of antipathy to all things European seems to point Britain towards the deep blue sea. History propels it towards Brussels, Frankfurt, Bonn, Berlin.

Oh dear, I seem to have mentioned three German destinations. This is surely a childish attempt to provoke English readers. Before you know it, I will be saying positive things about the French. Well, it so happens that the "English" are really German, with a strong dash of Normandy in the ethnic and cultural mix. I did not make this up. I read it in a book. It was published this week by Stephen Haseler, professor of government at London Guildhall University.

The German infusions came from Jutland, the "Anglen" in Denmark, and Lower Saxony. The Vikings were Germanic. Professor Haseler over-stretches his English-German argument when he throws in what he calls the "Frenchified Normans" and notes that "like the Germans", they were "also

of Indo-European descent". He is on safer ground when he alludes to the use of French and Latin by the English aristocracy and learned professions until the approach of revolution in France led them to choose English nationalism and its language.

This space is too confined for even the most potted recapitulation of history. Challenges to the notion of "Englishness" are not new. Professor Haseler has, however, brought previous thoughts together in a short and stimulating volume.

He tells us that the idea of "England", was nurtured by the aristocracy, who based their instinctive outlook on land, class and race. The establishment that steered by

these compasses remained sceptical about reason, first principles, intellectuals. It was anti-Catholic and anti-French.

You could say, as in some moods I would, that the edifice that supports the UK on such an English foundation is crumbling. The monarchy is not in the best of shape. Labour would defenestrate hereditary peers and devolve authority to Scotland. The influence of the established Church is dwindling. Professor Haseler would go further, citing the global economy, the Internet, satellite TV (owned by outsiders), and the purchase of British assets by international companies as several among many reasons why sovereignty is ebbing away from nation-states.

So far, so familiar. More poignant is the author's dismissal of the proposition that the EU is the creature of its members, that it is a Europe of nation-states. He argues that under the Maastricht treaty the union really is an embryonic federal superstate. He places it somewhere on an historical time line equivalent to the position of the nascent

United States two centuries ago. Pro-Europeans do say this kind of thing but less often than sceptics. It makes us nervous.

Not our professor. He suggests that in the next century the British, outside the UK but within Europe, will not become a tragic people robbed of their freedom. They will, rather, be fortunate enough, "in an increasingly competitive and unstable world... to be part of a seriously going concern".

Some of us may be forgiven for feeling a trifle discomfited at such a prospect. Nationalists will reject the proposition that England - Britain, the UK, whatever - cannot subsist on its own. Traditional Conservatives do not buy the line that British institutions are decaying and ought to be put down. Those of us who are internationalists, reforming, pro-Europeans, retain our critical faculties. There is no promise of heaven here. To lie in the continental embrace may be inevitable, but never let us fool ourselves that it will be all gain.

* The English Tribe, Macmillan, London, pb £14.99.



Boodle & Dunthorne and Jaeger-le Coultre are pleased to announce the premiere viewing of the latest collection of

JAEGER-LECOULTRE

Reverso and jewelled timepieces featuring the smallest mechanical watch movement ever manufactured.

Thursday 23rd May to Saturday 8th June 10.00am to 6.00pm at

BOODLE & DUNTHORNE
Jewellers
128-130 Regent Street, London
0171 437 5050

PERSPECTIVES

The Nature of Things

An ear for language

The rules for generating meaningful sentences are open to debate, says Andrew Derrington

What is the best way to teach a baby to talk? Nobody really knows but most scientists agree that it probably does not matter. Unless they are completely isolated from human speech, children learn to speak pretty well. However, scientists from different traditions differ widely in their explanations of why this is so.

One view, widely held by linguists and expounded with great clarity by Steven Pinker of Massachusetts Institute of Technology in an extremely readable book, *The Language Instinct*, is that the apparatus for language is embedded in the human brain and develops spontaneously.

All that is necessary for the baby to learn to speak is to fine-tune the language machine inside his or her head to idiosyncrasies of the local dialect, and to learn the vocabulary. The normal development of the brain and body does the rest.

Evidence supporting this view comes from linguistics, neuroscience, genetics and psychology.

However, it does not rule out a completely contrary view, held by cognitive psychologists. This is that a child works out how to speak by understanding events that surround it and imitating the language that describes them.

One of the strongest arguments advanced by the linguists is that, in every language, the rules for generating meaningful sentences correspond to minor variations of a universal grammar.

The grammar has nothing to do with questions such as whether we split infinitives or end sentences with prepositions. It simply specifies how words can be combined to

produce phrases and how phrases are combined to produce sentences. The number of sentences in any language is limitless. Any of us could generate many times more sentences than we would have time to speak during the course of our lives.

Whenever we learn a new word we can immediately deploy it correctly in new sentences. Linguists argue that we could not generate novel sentences simply by repeating what we hear, just as we cannot converse in a foreign language merely by using a phrase book. We need a machine inside our head that knows the rules for generating - and decoding -

completely new combinations of words.

If language depends on such a machine, it should be possible to track it down in the brain. And it is. A stroke or any other injury that damages a small area, usually on the left-hand side of the brain, leaves the sufferer unable to speak or to write.

Fortunately, the organisation of the brain is flexible enough that if the damage happens early in life the corresponding area on the other side of the brain takes over and the ability is preserved.

This flexibility could indicate that the language machine is not unique, or simply that the genetic

rules for building it can be applied to different parts of the brain.

There is evidence that genes affect the ability to learn language. Dorothy Bishop, of the Medical Research Council's Applied Psychology Unit in Cambridge, studies children who are slow to learn language but who have otherwise normal intelligence.

Language difficulty runs in families. If one of a pair of identical twins has such a difficulty, there is about a 90 per cent chance that the other will have it, too. For non-identical twins the chance is about 45 per cent.

Although this is strong evidence for a genetic defect, Bishop thinks

that the root of the problem may lie in the ability to receive the language input, rather than in the language machine.

Bishop is also sceptical about the importance of the universal grammar. "I think the linguists are all asking the wrong questions. Children don't learn the universal grammar, they learn something about how likely it is that one word follows another." The apparently universal nature of the rules of language may simply reflect the limitations imposed by human memory and attention spans, she says.

One way to resolve the question, according to Julian Pine of Not-

tingham University, would be to work out what sort of grammar children use from the way they say things.

Is their speech governed by rules that they have learned from their observation of the world, or do they use an immature version of the universal grammar that is a part of their genetic inheritance? The available data can be interpreted either way.

Pine is just starting a project to collect more data. Fourteen children who are just beginning to speak will be recorded for two hours every three weeks for a year. When the conversations are transcribed and analysed, it may be possible to get an answer, but it will not come quickly: the detailed analyses are very time-consuming. "These data could keep me busy until I retire," says Pine, who is now in his early 30s.

Andrew Derrington is professor of psychology at the University of Nottingham.

The Language Instinct, Steven Pinker, Penguin 1994.

Minding Your Own Business

The struggle to open a window of opportunity

Clive Fewins meets a man who is trying to give glaziers a good name

In 1991 John Rose's timber window replacement company was facing its first loss-making year in its eight-year history when he had a stroke of luck. In a much-publicised incident, the Royal Yacht Squadron in Cowes, Isle of Wight, was ordered to remove the plastic windows it had installed in its headquarters, parts of which date from the 18th century.

Rose's business, The Original Box Sash Window Company, won the contract to replace them. "The job was not hugely profitable but it brought in £30,000 at a crucial time and gave us the pick-me-up we needed," said Rose, 58. "The recession had hit us hard. Profits were down to nothing from the 20 per cent gross we had been experiencing. We still ended the year making a small loss."

Rose has not made a loss since, although 1994 - in which turnover dropped nearly £200,000 from the £1.6m peak the year before - was a break-even year in which he had to re-mortgage his house to secure the £100,000 from bank needed to tide the company over.

"My bank manager tells me that we have had a charmed life compared with his other customers in the building trade," said Rose, who has since sharply reduced his overdraft and is expecting turnover this year to rise to £1.8m.

"Nevertheless our profits are much lower than in the 1980s. We shall be happy with a 10 per cent gross profit at the end of this year."

Rose is much happier about the future. "Although there are now a few copycat firms about specialising in double glazed wooden window installations we were the first," he said.

"We build the patent on our double glazed sash window system and we are known by English Heritage and many key specifiers to be a company specialising in high quality one-offs, with a string of prestigious jobs behind us."

During the turbulent past few years Rose has managed to retain his 44-strong staff, 25 of whom are at his factory in Merthyr Tydfil, Wales. The rest are at the company's headquarters and home counties distribution depot, which is housed in one of the massive railway arches beneath the Victorian station and visitor centre in Windsor.

Before leasing the 4,000 sq ft from British Rail 12 years ago Rose ran the company from his home.

In those days he had the units made locally and employed a team of

self-employed sub-contractors to install them. Rose's own forte was sales. Although he trained in architecture and has a qualification in building construction, he had been in the antique trade, and for the five previous years had been a double glazing salesman for a large national aluminium window company.

He had made a good living there but hated seeing high quality wooden window frames being removed from good quality houses and replaced with aluminium products.

The received wisdom at that time, the late 1970s, was that you could not achieve effective double glazing and modern standards of draught proofing in a wooden frame," Rose said.

"Eventually I grew tired of ruining people's homes and decided that as nobody was producing good quality wooden windows with double glazing and draught proofing for the replacement market, I would have a go."

In 1981, when the company he was working for rejected his idea, he approached a local joiner with a design of his own. "The result was clumsy compared with our present day product, but it worked," Rose said.

"As I disliked the job I was doing I left, advertised my windows in a national Sunday newspaper and soon found I was in business."

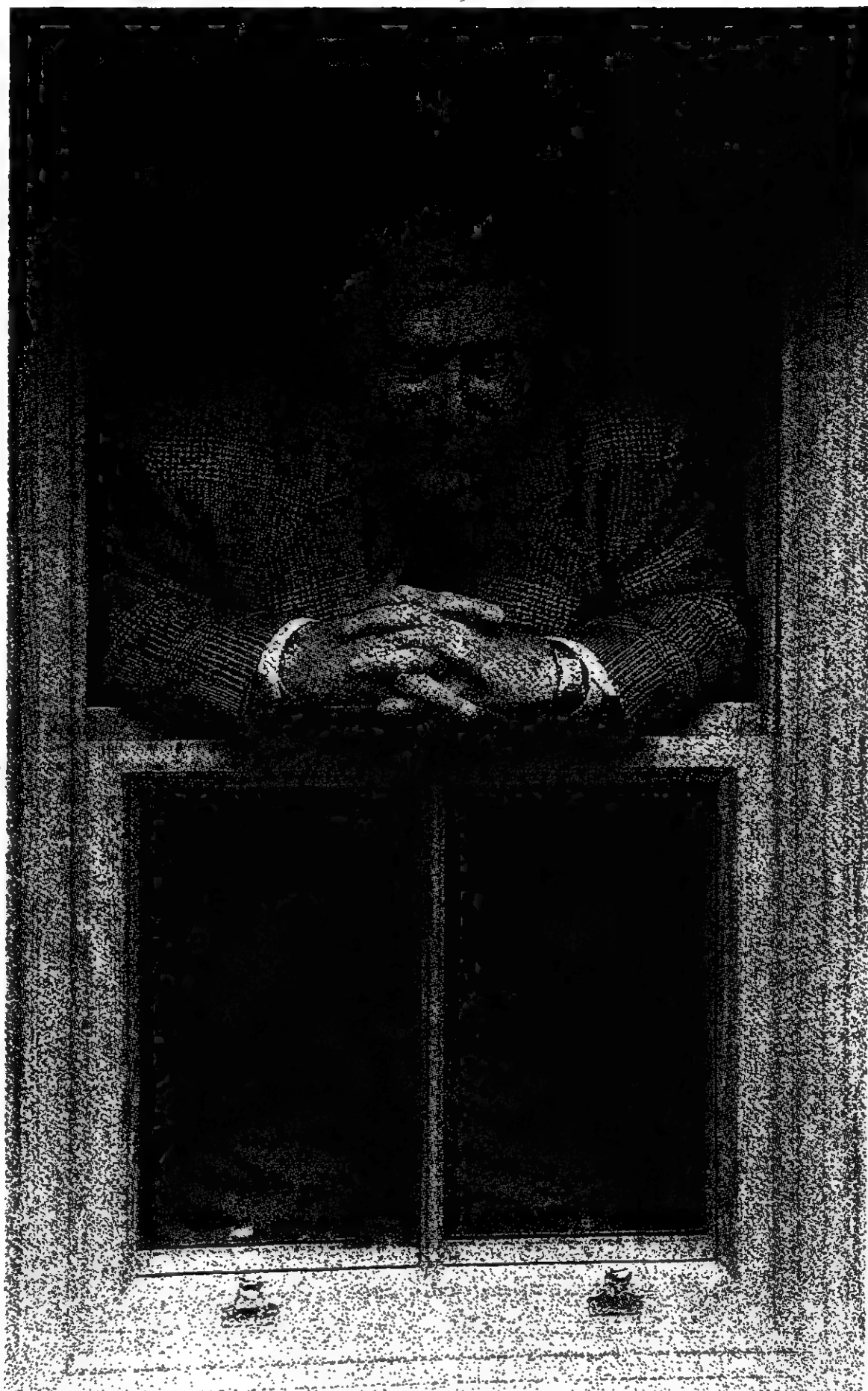
"People could see that the windows were good quality and I managed to convince them that timber was by far the best material. Well-made windows in good timber should last 60 years if they are painted properly. Aluminium generally looks horrible and plastic windows become light and bleached after a few years and begin to crack at the joints."

Rose's enterprise became a limited company in 1984 when he moved to his present premises.

The year 1986 was memorable for The Original Box Sash Window Company. Rose finally parted with his local joiner, who had suffered an extensive fire, negotiated a £100,000 government grant for setting up the Merthyr operation in a vacant industrial unit, bought three vans, and hired six staff at Windsor and 26 at Merthyr.

To the government money he added £25,000 of his own capital as well as the profits from previous years to finance the moves.

"All this was in a year in which I had feared I might be wiped out as a result of the fire," he said. "Somehow our joiner managed to struggle on until we opened in Wales and we were



John Rose: 'Well-made windows in good timber should last 60 years if they are painted properly'

able to keep up with our order book, which at that time stretched a healthy five months in advance.

"It all turned out very well as I could not have afforded to set up a similar operation in the Windsor area. Finding 25 skilled men in one go would also have been a problem here. Most of the staff in Merthyr were former colliery maintenance men."

However, Rose has retained his Windsor base because his company operates mainly in the home counties

and south Midlands, as well as in Wales. Customers in other parts of the country buy their windows direct from Rose and use independent contractors to install them.

"I believe that had it not been for the recession of the early 1990s we would have been a £5m or £6m company by now," he said. "Fortunately we are back on course. We have £500,000 worth of advanced orders, not only for the sash windows that form about 70 per cent of our business but

also for the casement windows and French doors that we manufacture."

"English Heritage tells us there are 4m box sash windows in this country waiting their turn to be replaced. Now there is more money about I believe we have good reason for optimism."

The Original Box Sash Window Company, Unit 10, Bridgewater Way, Windsor, Berks SL4 1RD. Tel: 01753-658196.

Home Truths / Philip Crowe

Where charity should begin

To the secret amusement of the whole village, Mr and Mrs Baddily celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary just seven years after their 60th.

The Baddilys were a fiercely combative couple who died within days of each other, both well into their 90s.

When my wife called on them, the door was opened by Mrs Baddily. Mr Baddily called loudly from the kitchen: "Who is it?" "Who are you?" asked Mrs Baddily. "I've come for the Christian Aid envelope," my wife said. "She's come for the Christian Aid envelope," Mrs Baddily called. There came a bellow from the kitchen: "Tell her to bugger off." His wife gave a resigned smile and shut the door.

Tomorrow, another Christian Aid Week begins. It is the week when 250,000 people knock on 12m doors and, if previous years are a guide, collect £8.2m. The collectors are almost certainly aware that all their efforts are equal to just one week's jackpot in the National Lottery.

The chances of winning the jackpot used to be compared with the possibility of having a serious accident with a fridge door; but it has now been calculated that a person who buys a ticket on Monday is more likely to die by the time the draw is made on Saturday than to win the jackpot.

It makes me a little seamed, and not a little angry, that we gamble so much money every week on a 40m-1 chance of becoming rich, instead of investing every pound we can in the certainty of strengthening the poor.

There is, however, another statistic which is likely to depress the supporters of Christian Aid even more than comparisons with the lottery. For every £1 put into a Christian Aid envelope this coming week, African countries will repay £1.10 in interest on loans. Government spending on health care in Uganda is a miserable £1.60p per person a year, while £19 per person is spent on repayment of debt to western countries.

Rich countries like to feel good about being so charitable to poor nations. The figures do not justify such well-being. The poor are the reverse side of our well-being, and they are being made to serve our continued good fortune.

Every year since 1987, the poorer nations have paid more in interest on loans than they have received in aid.

Every year, the debt mountain increases. Since 1987, arrears on debt in African countries alone have quadrupled to £22bn.

These simple and shocking statistics are evidently creat-

ing a new mood among the supporters of organisations like Christian Aid. They are no longer content to collect relatively trifling sums and send them off with a hope and a prayer.

They are becoming more knowledgeable about the structures which keep poor people poor, more aware politically, more positive and determined in their campaigning.

They have, for example, come up with the preposterous suggestion that the International Monetary Fund should use a small part of its huge gold reserves to cancel the debt of 30 of the poorest countries. It would take 12 per cent of the reserves. Needless to say, the IMF has marshalled unassailable financial arguments against such foolishness.

Clearly it is just the kind of idealistic proposal which would come from the followers of a penniless Galilean carpenter.

Nor is that the only suggestion they are pursuing. In August of last year, this paper carried a news report of a smart move by the government of Peru. Owing about \$8bn in capital and unpaid interest, Peru used the Swiss Bank Corporation to buy back \$1.4bn of its own international debt on secondary markets at huge discount. It cost about \$600m to do it, a highly efficient way of cancelling its own debt. Commercial banks, which have been paid nothing in interest since 1983, were left spluttering in rueful admiration.

The latest suggestion is that Peru should be allowed to invent, at a heavy discount - say 50 per cent - the money it owes to Britain; so that instead of cancelling the debt, which amounts to £138m, the British government would allow Peru to put about £70m into a capital fund, with the interest being used to finance new business and development. The management of the fund would be in the hands of representatives of the British and Peruvian governments, working in partnership with development agencies.

The chancellor is likely to receive a substantial number of postcards next week, encouraging him to adopt this proposal, and the cards will be counted by a bored civil servant in the Treasury who will then write a brief minute. It is, after all, a trifling sum.

But there is just a chance that this might be a new and positive way of dealing with this type of debt. There is also the certainty that, if adopted, this proposal would make the difference between life and death for some of the poorest of our fellow human beings.

Continued from Page 1

tronic hoarding in Istanbul's busy Taksim Square flashes pictures of missing people. Ferdi Tayfur, one of Turkey's most popular singers, has produced a video clip on the missing. Two private television channels have made documentary dramas about the missing.

Ozbilci convinced a businessman to buy a second bus, also decorated with pictures of the missing, which travels around Turkey.

More than 20 people have been traced after passengers recognised pictures on the buses. One of them is Yilmaz Oner, a young conscript who deserted the army. The army told his family he was dead. In fact, he ran away after appar-

A nation stirred by one man's search for his son

ently being beaten repeatedly. He drifted for a while before ending up in a cheap Istanbul hotel. Unable to pay his bill, he began working as a cleaner in the hotel, too terrified to return home in case the army found him and dragged him back to the barracks. Oner is now undergoing psychiatric treatment at his home in Izmir, while his family attempts to convince the army to cancel his military service.

Ozbilci claims the campaign has sharply reduced the number of disappearances, although there are no reliable statistics. In spite of his sudden celebrity, Ozbilci and the association lead a precarious existence. He has almost run out of funds and is reduced to hustling for money to keep his second bus on the road. The

media, the pop stars and famous actors could soon lose interest in his cause.

However, his crusade has coincided with growing awareness in Turkey and overseas of the extent of political "disappearances". In March last year, Hasan Oskay, a Kurdish shopkeeper living in Istanbul, vanished during a security crackdown. Relatives found his body nearly two months later buried in an indigent's cemetery. Although two witnesses say they saw him in an Istanbul detention centre, the government denies he was ever held.

The Oskay case rapidly became a cause célèbre. Turkey's Human Rights Association declared May 17, the day on which his body was found, to be the national day of the disappeared. It is planning

demonstrations and other events to mark the day.

Police often detain individuals suspected of involvement in "terrorist organisations" that range from an alphabet salad of fringe left-wing groups to the Kurdistan Workers party (PKK), whose guerrillas are fighting an 11-year war against the state in predominantly Kurdish south-eastern Turkey.

Some, like Oskay, are beaten and tortured to death, then interred as indigents. Until now, courts accepted the police and security forces' denials without question. The Oskay affair and the "disappearance" in January of Metin Göktepe, a journalist, has led the media and courts to question the security forces' role.

Göktepe, a 27-year-old reporter on the left-wing news-

paper Evrensel, was covering the funeral of prison rioters linked to extremist left-wing groups. The funeral itself turned into a riot and the police arrested all the 1,000-odd

'What is clear is that Metin was taken into custody and he was killed in custody'

mourners, busling them to a nearby sports stadium. Göktepe was among those held. His body was discovered later, dumped in a nearby tea garden, his head smashed in.

This time, the police had gone too far. Göktepe's killing was too flagrant to be ignored. Even Adnan Keman, the government's human rights minister, traditionally a figure of only symbolic importance, admitted that "what is clear is that Metin was taken into custody and he was killed in custody". Pressure from the media, human rights organisation and from overseas forced prosecutors to begin legal proceedings against more than 20 police officers suspected of involvement in his death.

Turkish security forces are applying the same methods as their Latin American counterparts of the 1970s, who first used "disappearance" to silence political opposition. It seems fitting then, that Turkey's human rights movement

should use the same approach as Latin American campaigners, like Argentina's Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo.

They have gathered every Thursday in front of the presidential palace in Buenos Aires for 20 years to demand the government account for the 16,000 people abducted and presumed murdered by the 1976-83 military regime.

Like them, friends and relatives of Turkey's "disappeared" gather every Saturday on Istiklal Caddesi, Istanbul's crowded pedestrian precinct, to demand the release of the missing.

Turkey is under increasing international pressure to improve its human rights record. It is a signatory to numerous international human rights charters and conventions, but flouts them rou-

tinely. However, the political cost of doing so is mounting.

Last year the European parliament made greater respect for human rights a condition for approving a customs agreement between the European Union and Turkey. Economic aid from Brussels also depends on a reduction in human rights violations.

Yet human rights should be a pre-occupation not only of the politically active but also of Turkey's prostitutes, its child workers and other outcasts. The Turkish human rights movement has shunned Ozbilci, who strenuously avoids politicising his movement.

Still, he says: "The state is responsible for everyone. After the Oskay affair, everything started to come out. I am not against the state, but we have to speak with courage."

Additional reporting by Parisa Seyhan.

0205110015250

PERSPECTIVES



Norman Parker: 'The system makes you bitter and twisted. It affects the way you look. In Parkhurst it was like Dante's 'Inferno''

Terry Anderson

Lunch with the FT / Lucy Kellaway

A date with a murderer

The convicted murderer and the convicted murderer's public relations man were sitting by the window in Rasa Beyang, a Malaysian restaurant in Soho, London. They looked like a couple of local film people with their leather jackets, mineral water and mobile phones. I barely glanced at them, and sat at another table to wait for Norman Parker.

I was looking for a man in his 50s who had spent more than half his life in jail and had just published a second book about his grisly prison experiences. According to his press release he had killed twice at the age of 19 on his girlfriend - a violent type who slept with a gun under her pillow and who had attempted to kill him first. He served four years in prison for that, but shortly after his release killed again, and was back inside for the next 24 years.

I was having my doubts about this lunch. It is right that murderers should become celebrities with fawning PRs and be courted by journalists hungry for stories of crime and punishment. Was I really interested in his views on prison reform, or was I just wanting to meet someone who had done the unthinkable?

I sat there for some time searching both my conscience and the restaurant in vain. Eventually I looked again at the men in the window. On closer inspection I saw that the older of the two did not look like a film producer at all. His face was deeply lined and he seemed intense, unrelaxed. I approached. The PR man did the introductions, and left us to it.

"Are you a regular here?" I found myself asking.

Ignoring the tautness of the question he explained that Asian food suited him: in prison he had put himself on a restricted diet after contracting psoriatic arthritis. "I had been fitter than an Olympic athlete. Literally. But I woke up one

day and my fingers were fat like chipolata sausages."

The voice was broad cockney and the manner articulate, obsessive. He told me how he had cured himself by getting a job in the prison kitchen so that he could feed himself exclusively on swede, bananas, carrots and soya stew.

We studied our menus in silence. I ordered noodles, he ordered fish and rice. I started to explain about the lunch with the FT series. He looked blank and replied with a story about how successful the launch of his book had been at the Groucho Club in Soho. "Unfortunately it's a little bit of a cliché writing a book - no thanks to McVicar, Reggie Kray, Eddie Richardson. But their books have been ghost written - I write all my books. Without being arrogant, I'd like to say I've got some literary pretensions." Did he mean potential, I wondered.

Taking courage, I asked if murderers should be able to become rich and famous on the basis of what they have done. "Yeah, yeah," he interrupted. "For my first book I stood for that. I was Norman the Murderer who happened to have written a book. But it sold 20,000 in hardback. OK, now I've got my second book published. It's a full-length book. By all means criticise my book. But I feel I've served my time. I did 24 years for killing a criminal with his own gun after he attacked me."

Evidently I had touched a raw nerve. I tried to interrupt the flow, but without success. "Every man and his dog has an opinion about prisons but it's an extremely unfounded opinion. So if nothing else I am informing the debate. But you would have thought I was committing a series of crimes the way some people have reacted."

I shifted the topic to the "variety of successful business ventures" which, according to his press release, he has established since being released on parole two years

ago. "I realised it was no use going up to a corporation and saying, 'I'm Norman Parker, I'm 50 years of age. I've got an upper second class honours degree but unfortunately I've just spent the last 24 years in prison for murder.'"

So instead he has been "spotting ideas looking for a market and taking them to a corporation and saying, 'I'm Norman Parker, I'm 50 years of age. I've got an upper second class honours degree but unfortunately I've just spent the last 24 years in prison for murder.'"

"Prison is the loneliest place in the world," he went on. "If you're not gay, and I'm not, you don't have no emotional relationships whatsoever. Apart from when my mum came I didn't touch anyone. In some ways I felt strong, but I was aware I was a very long way from the rest of the human race." Watching him pick at his plate of rice and prawns I thought he was still a long way off.

"He's a very private man. He's Jewish. I'm Jewish. We knew each other in prison. He enjoys my writing. I'm friendly with him, but I

'Prison is the loneliest place. If you're not gay - and I'm not - you don't have emotional relationships'

don't want to make capital out of that."

We started to talk more generally about the shock of emerging from prison after so long inside. "Prison encloses you, feeds you, thinks for you. But out here there is absolutely no structure," Parker reckons that he has only been able to cope with the outside world because of his mum. Now aged 84, she spent nearly three decades visiting her son in jails and the two live together in Wimbledon.

"After I came out I met a young lady of 23 with a very severe drug problem. We lived together for a while. But last year she died on a train."

"It was quite a heavy blow. But

now I am back with me mum and totally concentrating on me career." It was difficult to know how to react to all this. On one hand he was telling me his deepest secrets, but was doing so in such a detached way he could have been talking about someone else.

"Prison is the loneliest place in the world," he went on. "If you're not gay, and I'm not, you don't have no emotional relationships whatsoever. Apart from when my mum came I didn't touch anyone. In some ways I felt strong, but I was aware I was a very long way from the rest of the human race." Watching him pick at his plate of rice and prawns I thought he was still a long way off.

I asked what he thought of Michael Howard's prison initiative. "It's a waste of taxpayers' money," he said. "The money could be better spent in more policing and preventing crime. Politically I used to be very much of the right but - I might be to do with taking a very Marxist oriented Open University course - I ended up on the left. So privatisation doesn't sit easy with me, except in the case of prisons."

He described a trip he took soon after his release round one of the first privatised prisons, and from the glowing way he talked about the organisation, its structure and culture he could have been a management consultant.

How much of a difference would it have been made to him had he done his time there? "I wouldn't have had so much to hate," he said.

"The system makes you bitter and twisted. It affects the way you look. In Parkhurst it was like Dante's 'Inferno'. There were people who were completely insane. They were very, very dangerous. Literally. It was every man for himself. So I thought: if only the public knew about this. That was one of the reasons I wrote *Parkhurst Towers*."

For all his venom about prisons and prison officers, he thinks that the system saved him. "I was quite

a violent person back in 1970. Quite disturbed, and very, very self-destructive. I recognised that early on in prison I tried to think good and do good."

Was there still violence in him, I asked, but what I really meant was: might he kill again?

"If you've got an evil streak you have to contain it and push it down inside you. Whatever I had was still there but it's absolutely totally under control."

At this point I became aware that other people in the restaurant were listening in, but he took no notice. Instead he was intent on telling me how much the world had deteriorated during his time behind bars. "In prison there is a lot of camaraderie, but out here there is no morality, especially in the criminal walks of life."

I remarked that criminals were not known for their enhanced moral sense. He ignored the sarcasm and ploughed on: "When someone comes out of prison, ex-cons would give them a few quid, or put them into a particular criminal venture. But now everyone has to look after themselves. The distinction between good and bad has become blurred, y'know."

I studied him for traces of irony, but found none. "Every second unemployed person is a burglar. When you go out in a public place you are taking your life in your hands."

Come on, I say. It is not that bad.

"You might miss it, but when I see someone I know is a criminal type person. You become a very good judge of character in prison because your life depends on it."

We stood up to leave, and I was taken aback to see that this man who boasts in his books that he was feared by both "cons" (convicts) and "screws" (prison officers) alike is barely taller than me. Where are you off to, I asked. To Soho Square, he said, to discuss a project with a film production company.

The Amazon highway to destruction

Angus Foster considers the human and environmental cost of building a road

It was launched to symbolise a modernising Brazil, a road to open up the Amazon and carry "men without land" to the "land without men".

Twenty-five years later, the Transamazonica highway is still unfinished and its red dirt surface, which threads through thousands of miles of rainforest and savannah, is often impassable when it rains.

The grand designs of its military planners are long forgotten. But where the highway went and colonists followed, there has been a transformation, often at huge environmental cost. For the several hundred thousand people living alongside the highway, it is home. For those still arriving, it is the route to cheap land and, perhaps, a new life.

"The whole idea was a mistake," according to Paulo Medeiros, who came with his family in the 1970s to farm and waited four years for the highway to reach his property. "But it is too late now, you can't turn the clock back. The damage has been done."

The Transamazonica was first proposed in 1970 after a serious drought hit Brazil's poor north-east. The military government decided that cheap land in the Amazon could silence calls for land reform in other parts of the country.

Construction started almost immediately, after few if any environmental studies. Inca, the government's land agency, was told to start settling colonists either side of the highway and by other new roads in the region. In total, the agency had 3.2m sq km of land on its books, about 10 times the size of the UK.

For the inhabitants of Altamira, then a sleepy village which lay on the Transamazonica's path, there was excitement. For Benigno Marques, who was born in the village and was then in his 20s, the highway's arrival was something from another world. "They talked about opening up a continent and founding new cities. For us, it meant the arrival of TV too," he says.

The Transamazonica did reach Altamira, and several model agricultural villages were built at 10km intervals into the forest. But a change of president, and the realisation that small farmers would desert their land without proper infrastructure such as schools and hospitals, left the project quickly without government support.

From 1972, development was left to the private sector. Big farmers did well, converting forest to cattle pasture using government incentives. Small farmers and newcomers were forced to cut ever deeper into the Amazon.

Altamira is today showing signs of gentrification, although it retains the aura of a frontier town. The gun repairs are being pushed to the outskirts by hardware and clothes shops serving farmers bringing their produce to market. The population has grown from 3,000 in 1970 to 120,000. A severe energy shortage leaves only half the town with electricity at any time.

Religion has arrived in force and most of Brazil's evangelical Protestant movements have built churches to appeal to the desperate and needy among the new arrivals.

Darkly, a mysterious satanic sect is blamed for the murder and emasculation of five young boys since 1988. Three more boys were kidnapped and castrated, but survived.

West along the highway towards Medicilândia, named after the unpleasant president Médici who launched the Transamazonica, there are few remaining signs that the area was once densely forested.

The only clue, amid the rolling pastures, are occasional burnt out tree trunks, some more than 100ft tall, which sit nakedly on the horizon.

These are remnants of a decree to save rare species such as chestnut and ipé. But when the forest was cleared by fire, the trees were saved but their branches burned in the intense heat and most have since died.

Forest clearance continues, but has extended many miles inland from the highway. For the Amazon as a whole, only about 10 per cent of forest cover has been removed. But in regions such as Altamira, the process is most advanced. Equally disturbing, it has also taken hold in theoretically protected areas like indigenous Indian reserves.

One of the ironies of the Transamazonica's "land without men" catchphrase was that the land did, of course, have indigenous owners who were never reimbursed. These people, who near Altamira include the Arara and Bacajá tribes, later won recognition of their - much diminished - land holdings. But when rarer, more lucrative species were exhausted elsewhere, loggers started prospecting Indian reserves.

Padre Diego Pelizzari, a priest who works with indigenous tribes, says the big wood companies cut

The police can throw out one wood firm, but how do you take out 250 families?

tracks of up to 100km into the Indians' forest reserves to extract rare species like mahogany, much of which is exported to the UK. Using this track, land speculators map out plots which are sold to farmers using false titles. By the time the Indians realise the problem, part of their territory has been invaded.

"The police can throw out one wood company, but how do you take out 250 families," he asks.

Paulo, who did not give his surname, is one of the people who follow behind the families. He "clears" forests, although he prefers to describe his work using the Portuguese verb *derrubar*, to knock over or destroy. A Negro in his 30s with enormous hands, he speaks proudly of the different cutting techniques for each tree and ways to stop fire spreading to other people's plots.

I asked him if he would feel guilty about clearing Indian land. "I have a wife and two children and I only know this work. If someone pays me, I'll 'knock over' anybody's land," he said.

I did, finally, manage to find some uncleared forest near Altamira. About a two-hour walk from the town, past farms and flat pasture, the dirt track ran out and entered a belt of forest along the Xingu river. It was a glimpse of how much of the region must once have appeared, a high forest canopy of bird song and mass of ground vegetation shielding exotic insects and a hundred types of butterflies.

The image soon faded. On one side of the belt lay a recently burned strip of land, perhaps 100 acres in size. Only one high palm tree had survived the fire. Its success seemed inappropriate amid the remaining branchless trunks, their lifelessness recalling war photographs of Vietnamese woodland after napalm attacks.

A reflection of Rome's glory

Maurice Samuelson enjoys a visit to a Canadian library modelled on the Colosseum

However dramatic the changes in the streets of Vancouver, they will always pale against the mountains which clasp Canada's third biggest city.

They are striking nonetheless, judging by the city's most significant new building. Blatantly modelled on the Colosseum of Rome in its shape and scale, Vancouver's new public library is a tribute to its architect's *chutzpah* and puckish sense of humour.

Moshe Safdie, the Canadian-Israeli designer, showed both these qualities when he submitted his plan for the library. To the fury of local architects, who also coveted the job, Safdie's plan was chosen. It is one of a spate of new buildings in a maritime city, in which economic growth is surging thanks to immigration and trade with the Pacific Rim countries of Asia. It is also part of the world-wide crop of new libraries designed as power houses of information technology.

In the US alone new libraries are going up in 10 cities, including Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Denver and San Antonio.

Vancouver's nine-storey colossus (the library occupies the first seven floors) already draws 8,000 readers a day, twice as many as its predecessor built in 1967. Other architects were aghast when it opened and art college students scornfully paraded in Roman togas at the inauguration. But the design captivated the populace who in 1990 had voted to raise C\$30m towards its construction.

Madge Aalto, the library's director, compares its user friendliness with the "gridlock" in its predecessor, where "readers had to sit in the stair wells and the single lift moved with the speed of molasses."

Larry Beasley, Vancouver's central area planning director, also acknowledges its popularity while cautioning that "it's not the greatest piece of architecture in the world."

He traces Vancouver's present bout of construction back to its World Expo in 1986. "We were then a small city in the middle of nowhere when suddenly came to its own consciousness that it was something more, a sanctuary society where you can build your own quality of life," he says.

He generally approves of the quality of new city centre buildings but, with Greater Vancouver's population expected to climb from 1.6m to a possible 3m in the next 20 years, dislikes the uncontrolled eastward sprawl of its suburbs which he sees as the next big challenge to planners.

The entire Library Place development, which also includes shops, parking and a 23-floor office block, cost about C\$200m. But the library's bill was largely offset by the sale of its old building and by acquiring the site at a knockdown price in exchange for leasing the new office tower back to its owner - the federal government. This left Vancouverites with only C\$30m to find.

The library's popularity stems as much from its facilities as its strong visual impact. Featuring massive purple blocks clad in pre-cast chipped granite, it is more sophisticated than its shape suggests. It comprises two main elements - an outer ring, containing some of the quietest study areas, and a square, inner block housing the books, documents, pictures and banks of IT facilities.

The prominence of the public escalators seems more appropriate to a modern department store than a silent haven of study. However, their audible whirring creates a constant sound barrier against more distracting noises.

The main entrance is situated inside an elliptical promenade which skirts the south side of the building. Rooted in glass, it contains coffee shops, eating places and offices which have become a trendy meeting place in this rainy city.

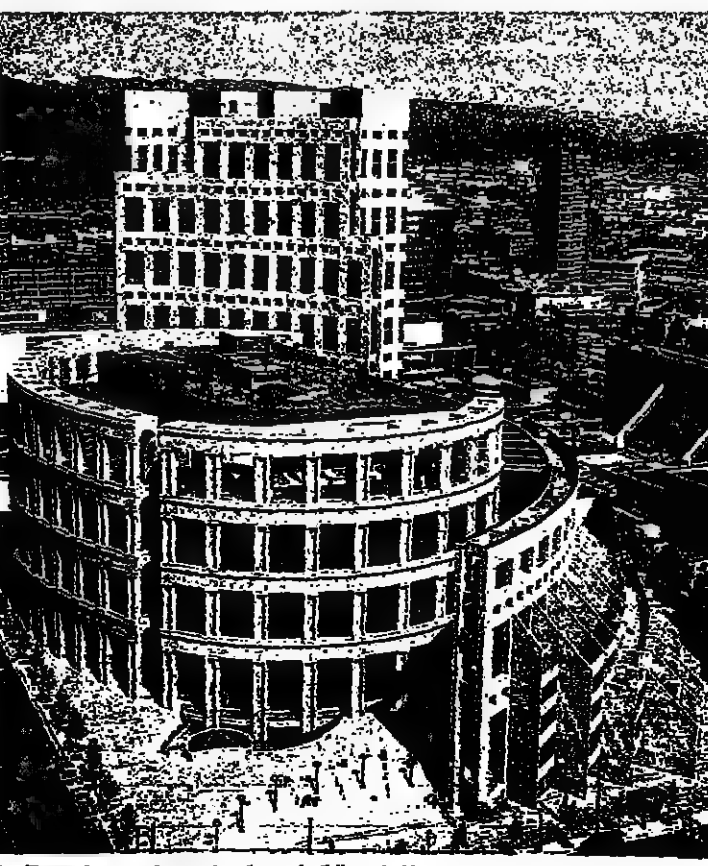
Behind the library stands another new building designed by Safdie. This is the Ford Centre for Performing Arts, an 1,800-seat theatre built by the Canadian Livent entertainment group to stage *Show Boat* and other big musicals for which it owns performing rights. Opened six months ago, it took only 18 months to build at a cost of C\$25m.

Meanwhile, older buildings are also taking on a fresh appearance. The city's most distinctive building, the 60-year-old Hotel Vancouver, has undergone a multi-million dollar face-lift. With its green copper roof, pitched in the style of a 16th century French chateau, it occupies

a pivotal position that, in European cities, would probably contain a cathedral. A monument to the great days of railway buildings, it had recently lost some of its prestige to newer competitors, including the Waterfront Centre which is a member of the same hotel chain. Its refurbishment, including a new C\$12m lobby, will do much to restore its powerful mystique.

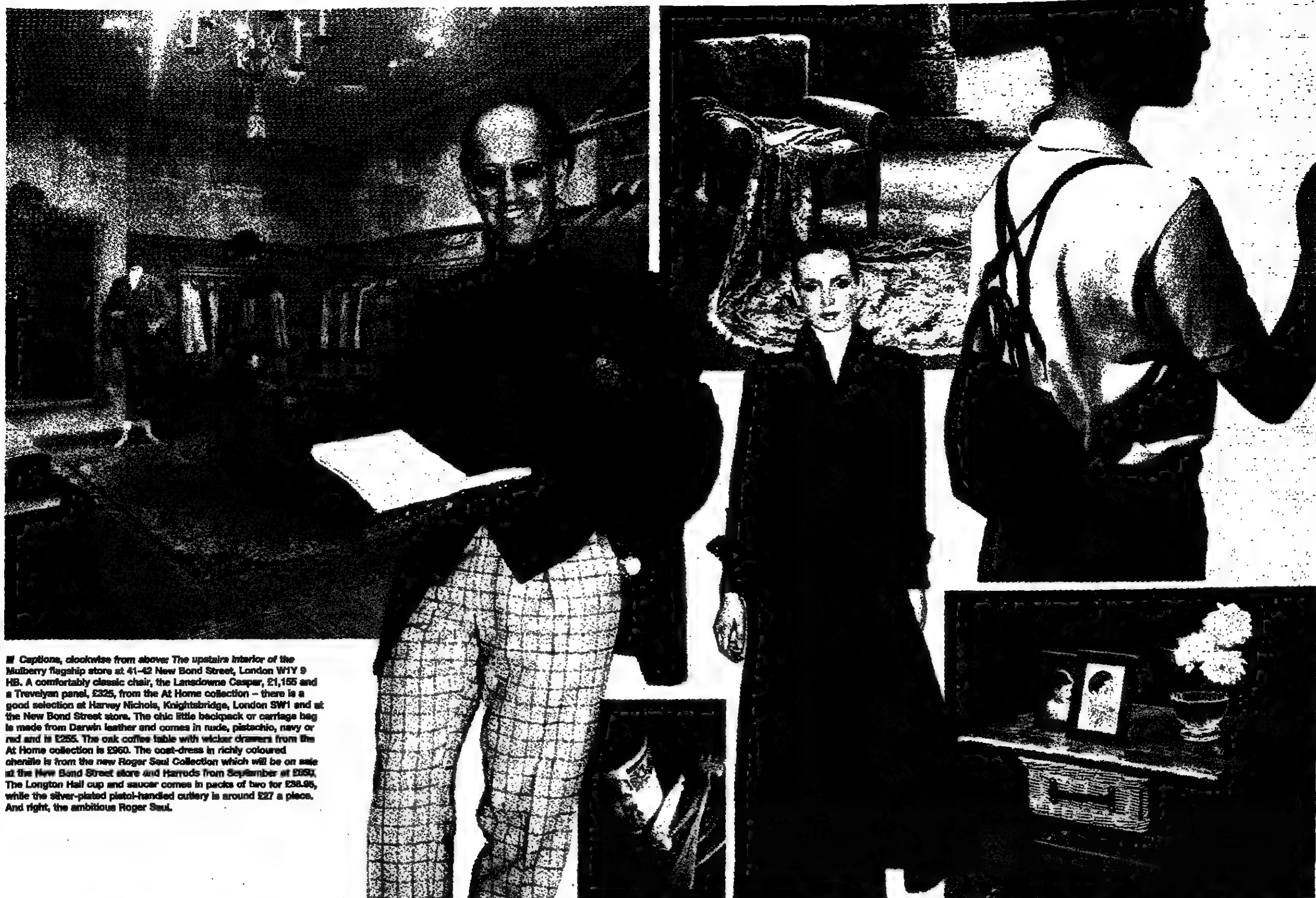
Another landmark building is the Canada Place convention and exhibition centre built on the waterfront for the 1986 Expo, and once regarded as Vancouver's architectural answer to the Sydney Opera House. Since last year's potential bookings exceeded the centre's capacity by 40 per cent there is now serious talk of a second convention complex, to raise Vancouver's ranking as a North American conference venue from 54th place to 16th.

The writer flew from Heathrow to Vancouver with Canadian Airlines International which now offers a Club Empress class (UK reservations 0345-616767). In Vancouver he stayed at the Hotel Vancouver (604 694 3131) and Waterfront Centre (604 691 1931).



The library is one of a spate of new buildings in Vancouver

HOW TO SPEND IT



■ Captions, clockwise from above: The upstairs interior of the Mulberry flagship store at 41-43 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9 HB. A comfortably classic chair, the Lansdowne Caspar, £1,195 and a Trevelyan panel, £325, from the At Home collection - there is a good selection at Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London SW1 and at the New Bond Street store. The chic little backpack or carriage bag is made from Darwin leather and comes in nude, pistachio, navy or red and is £255. The oak coffee table with wicker drawers from the At Home collection is £950. The coat-dress in richly coloured chenille is from the new Roger Saul Collection which will be on sale at the New Bond Street store and Harrods from September at £295. The Longton Hall cup and saucer comes in packs of two for £38.95, while the silver-plated pistol-handled cutlery is around £27 a place. And right, the ambitious Roger Saul.

A certain 'Englishness' popular abroad

Mulberry needs to escape its rigidity to have more appeal in its own country, says Lucia van der Post

In 1971, Roger Saul was selling accessories in a shop called "Just Looking" in London's Kings Road. In his spare time he was cutting out pieces of leather and turning them into bags and chokers. This year, he is about to take Mulberry, the company that grew out of this activity, on to the Alternative Investment Market, a placing that values the company at over £30m.

Though it started in a small way, with the £500 given to Saul as a 21st birthday present from his mother, the bags and belts, tweeds and waxed jackets, have become international symbols of a certain English way of life. For what Roger Saul sells is Englishness, or rather a vision of what foreigners imagine the idealised English lifestyle to be. How much relation it bears to life as it is lived is not the point. Like Ralph Lauren, who sells a refined US East Coast version of Englishness, or Gucci which is currently purveying a cutting-edge hipness, it

is the dream that matters - and that sells.

It is a quirk of the Mulberry story that the dream seems to sell best abroad. In Scandinavia, chic Stockholm mothers send their children off to school clutching the Mulberry Scotch-grain trout bag as a satchel. In Paris, the planner to bring out at meetings in medieval is Mulberry's maroon version. In Germany, prosperous matrons sport the Tetbury Bag while in Japan it is "Roger's Briefcase" that the rising executive likes to sport. In Britain, a cult product has yet to emerge.

This so-called "Englishness" to which the foreigner responds so enthusiastically can sometimes, to the English eye, seem over-done. The emphasis in the shops on antiquary and paint effects, on nostalgic props and sporting paraphernalia can seem a little bogus. It is the fashion equivalent, if you like, of the mock-Tudor eateries, but it is

hard to fault its authenticity.

Roger Saul really does live in a 15th century manor in Somerset. He surrounds himself with the things he makes. Almost all the products are inspired by things he has lovingly collected. About 85 per cent of all the accessories are manufactured by Mulberry itself, most of it in the workshops in Somerset. Of the household products, almost all are updated interpretations of traditional classics - whether it is furniture or china, soft furnishings or tableware, it all springs from Saul's own genuine enthusiasm for the traditional English country way of life.

The strength, and indeed its weakness, are that it is all of a piece. Saul is the single eye and taste and inspiration behind the range. Whether it is a belt or a diary planner, a sofa or a velvet coat, it is Saul's personal lifestyle and tastes made manifest.

Those whose tastes run to 18th century manor houses, to rustic life on a grand scale, who prefer Sheffield silver to resin and Cumbrian crystal to recycled glass, who like double damask table linens and furniture made from indigenous woods, will find almost all they could ever want in the Mulberry range.

To get to the point today where the company is estimated to be worth over £30m has not always been easy. There have been lots of tough moments along the way. Over-expansion in the early 1980s meant that the business caught a very bad cold in the United States and overnight turnover almost halved.

There have been difficulties in Japan (now resolved) but the 1990s saw real recovery with sales growing from £12.3m in 1990 to £26.3m in 1995, while earnings grew from £548,000 to £1,965,000 in the same

period. Last year, the first complete Mulberry department store, big enough to have the whole range under one roof, opened in Bond Street, London. It was the culmination of a dream and the beginning of what Saul hopes will be steady international expansion.

Roger Saul is aiming high. He sees no reason why Mulberry should not enjoy the kind of international success and cachet of France's Louis Vuitton, Italy's Gucci and Prada, and America's Ralph Lauren.

This is hard to do. Mulberry products, however desirable, seem to some to carry price tags that are hard to justify on rational grounds. But there are those who think that paying well over £300 for a bit of Prada nylon or joining a three-month queue for some Gucci hipsters at over £250 a time is rational behaviour.

Roger Saul would seem to be aim-

ing at that magical territory where customers can be induced to pay far more than the intrinsic value of the goods, where high price tags reassure rather than deter, where products become cult products that customers feel impelled to buy regardless of the cost.

All this means that he has to inject a little more magic into the collection - too rigid a classicism can become a little too predictable - and for the coming autumn it looks as if he has done this. A new collection called The Roger Saul Collection acknowledges the need for something a little less dependent on tweeds and practical all-weather wear - here there is a more directional range that often has a witty take on more classic themes.

There are hip bomber jackets made out of rich chenilles from the home collection and richly glorious evening coats and dresses made from brocades, chenilles and vel-

vets. There are also wonderful velvet evening coats for men and women (Bob Geldof is, it seems, a fan and I should think the purple velvet would be absolutely up his street). There are maxi-suits in gloriously coloured tweeds - again a witty combination of a classic fabric and a very directional shape (maxis are much-predicted for the autumn).

Meanwhile the trout bag, the briefcases, other bags and belts, the luggage and planners go on selling and form the backbone of Mulberry's success.

The At Home collection blossoms, particularly in America where selling the clothing and the accessories has been more difficult. The effort to turn Mulberry into an international name, to rank internationally with Hermès and Gucci, with Ralph Lauren, Prada and Gucci goes on. It would be good to see a British name giving them all a run for their money.

■ The Mulberry Shop is at 41/43 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9HB.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A RACEHORSE OWNER

Perfect way to spend weekends. Corporate ownerships welcome. Syndicates always available. 2 yr old colt for sale ready to run. No training fees until he wins.

Please telephone Charles Egerton for more details
Tel 01488 638771 Fax 01488 638832

PERSONAL FITNESS

A totally new way of thinking about personal fitness. Personal fitness is not just about the body, it is about the mind, the spirit, the soul. It is about the whole person. It is about the way you live, the way you think, the way you feel. It is about the way you love, the way you work, the way you play. It is about the way you are.

JOHN DONALD

Designer, Goldsmith
A Retrospective Exhibition of his exquisite jewellery from the swinging sixties to the nostalgic nineties from the 15th May until the 19th June at the
JOHN DONALD GALLERY
120, Cheapside, London EC2V 6DR
Tel: 0171 606 2673

Go on safari and help the Bushmen

Many readers have asked what they can do to help the Khwe since I wrote about them (April 27/28). The Botswana government has declared its intention of forcibly removing them from their homes in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve, destroying their way of life and taking their land. John Hardcastle, who has become the spokesman for the Khwe cause, has founded a registered non-governmental, non-profit-making organisation called First People of the Kalahari which, for the first time, has given the Khwe an organised voice. Any funds sent to the organisation will be used to help the Khwe people; the difficulty of communicating with such small scattered groups is huge and the problem of fuel for the bitter winter nights is acute.

The address is First People of the Kalahari, c/o Barclays Bank of Botswana Ltd, Lobatse Branch, Botswana, account no. 8387963. Otherwise the headquarters of First People of the Kalahari is at PO Box 173, Ghanzi, Botswana. Those who would like to

learn about the Khwe at first hand might like to know that John Hardcastle will be running three special trips into the Kalahari desert; those who take part will spend five nights with a band of Bushmen, learning how they make bows and arrows, make medicines from plants and herbs, track and hunt, make jewellery and tan skins. Each safari will end with a traditional Bushman feast and trance dance - an exceptional chance to learn from the Bushmen themselves about their culture and way of life.

Conducted by Hardcastle, who speaks fluent Khwe and is the son of a Bushman mother and a British father, these safaris are not cheap - \$5,000 for five nights, exclusive of air fares to Botswana, for a maximum of 10 people - because most of the funds will be going to help the Khwe people.

Dates on offer are June 25-July 1, July 1-7, and July 7-12. Write to Cammova & Loyd Safaris Ltd, Unit 1, 39 Talana Road, London SW10 0PY (tel: 0171-576 3726; fax: 0171-576 5257).

L.v.d.P.



The Khwe people their land and way of life is being destroyed

Wanted: volunteer Zagateers for London's guide

Travellers to New York will undoubtedly know all about the Zagat Survey.

Compiled by two food-loving New York lawyers, the guide consisted of nothing but highly personal experiences and opinions - all of which gave it an immensely readable authority and turned it into one of the best-loved, most used guides to New York's ever-changing restaurant scene.

Each year, 500,000 copies are sold and there is now a Zagat Survey for 38 cities throughout the US and Canada.

Now, Sholto Douglas-Home (the editor), Susan Kessler (a New Yorker who knows and loves food but now lives in London) and Kirsty Smallwood, are compiling a Zagat Survey of London's eateries.

They are inviting readers to give their personal experiences and opinions on ailing by helping to compile the guide. As Sholto Douglas-Home puts it: "Anyone can become a London Zagateer by simply sending a stamped, addressed envelope to our London office. Correspondents will then be sent a list of 649 restaurants

and can vote on as many restaurants as they feel competent to judge - food, decor and service all need to be ranked on a scale of "0" to "3".

There is also room for comments and estimates of the cost of a single meal with one drink and all charges. There is also space for any other new entries or nominations to be made. Frankness and honesty are the order of the day with contributors being asked to note bad service, decrepit surroundings, bad acoustics or any other factors that could affect the experience.

The New York guide became famous for its helpful categories: dancing, romantic spots, late-night rendezvous, beautiful views are all noted. The rating and remarks are later processed by computer, printed out, and re-assessed and evaluated by the editor.

The reward for taking part will be a free copy of the guide when published later this year. Anybody keen to take part should hurry as the compilation date is high - write to Susan Kessler, London Zagat Survey, 61 Cadogan Square, London SW1X 0HZ, or telephone 0171-244 8430.

FASHION

Cosmo girl: emancipation in high heels

'There's never been a more exciting time to be a woman' claims the hype. Nigel Spivey investigates

She manifests glamour. Not for her the boiler suits and spare tyres of doctrinaire feminism. Emancipation in high heels and tight skirts is a measure of success in both love and work. While she is probably unmarried, and certainly childless, the mating ritual is a serious preoccupation. Yet she is industrious in working for her more likely to be secretary to an executive than boss herself. Sedentary at work, a redressing work-out is aerobic to the point of volcanic. When weary, she will release a little extra energy through Feng Shui, or cosset tired cells with Dead Sea mud. Her own nutrition is of minimalist concern; occasionally, she will drizzle a coulis over some tapas with seduction in mind, or as a token of last year's holiday.

Her drinks are tequila, designer lager, and Californian wine. Excess of their intake is one of the rare occasions when she transgresses her own trinity of principles: to look good, feel good, and be in control. She is her own woman. That is what they tell her, over and over again. But she also has a tribal

identity, aligning her with 25m other women in Britain, and 25m worldwide. She is defined by that to which she subscribes. She is Cosmo girl. "There's never been a more exciting time to be a woman. And there's never been a more dynamic event to celebrate being you!" This week's Cosmopolitan Show at Earl's Court in London was the word become flesh.

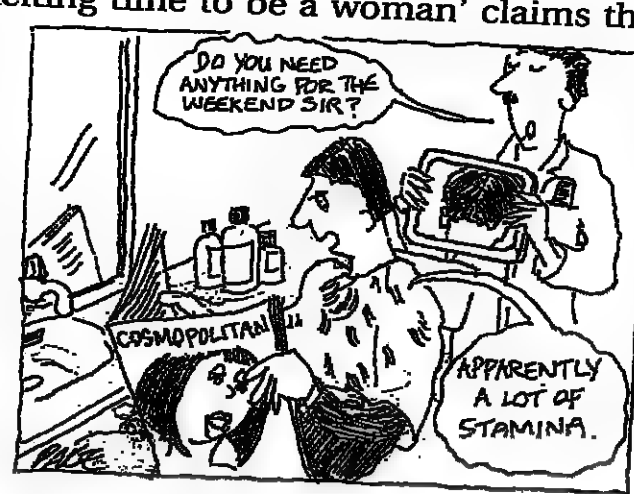
The magazine's contributors, diligently assisted by the magazine's advertisers, made themselves at home to their readers. It was the revelation of a real presence for Cosmo girl. "Try it, touch it, test it... and take it home!"

To stray into such a happening, as a man, should carry the thrill of forbidden territory. Of course, there were men around the suppliers of suits, the sculptors of hair, the Feng Shui gurus - but this was an overtly female jamboree. And yet one felt like an

expected intruder. For it is a fact well-known to the magazine's production team that Cosmopolitan has an eager male readership too. Fickle creatures: they never buy it. But if a copy comes to hand, they love it. While Cosmo girl flicks through, the men scour every detail.

Now that my three sisters have graduated to the non-Cosmo territory of marriage and reproduction, I check the magazine less regularly than once upon a time. But to judge from the show, Cosmopolitan seems as reassuringly formulaic as ever.

Each issue brings the promise of gilt-embossed resolutions, and the renovation of self and soul. A new look, a new you. There is always the same photo of a smart girl stepping out into traffic with stilettos and a briefcase, to the lowered but covetous gaze of grey male bystanders. There is always the same



measure of hack psychoanalysis (usually written by a man), and a changeless style to those pseudo-documentary investigations of sex and relationships. But it is too easy for intellectuals to deplore Cosmopolitan and its ilk. Some academic theories concerning the phenomenon of women's magazines are patently absurd. For instance, it has been argued that "men's time" is more linear than "women's time", which is supposedly governed by individual biorhythms rather than clocks

or calendars: hence this cyclical female time prefers periodical diversions, such as a monthly magazine.

Yet men's monthlies are proliferating - including those that are plainly indebted to the style and format of female pioneers such as Cosmopolitan.

It has also been proposed that women's magazines reflect, by their open nature, a feminine psychology that is less "closed" than the boundaries of the masculine ego.

But the essence of Cosmopolitan is that (as its title implies) each number holds the whole world. The very heart of the magazine, swollen with moisturer samples and perfumes that reek of newsprint, declares its self-contained capacity to deliver the goods (the new look, the new you).

Cosmo girl deserves to celebrate herself. And we should not be supercilious. To appreciate why, one has simply to meditate on the brief

archaeology of women's magazines, as newly described by Margaret Beetham*, a Manchester historian.

Her book spans scarcely 200 years. Beginning with the 1798 Lady's Monthly Museum, the gender-specific journal has always struggled not to patronise women. It expanded greatly in Victorian times, largely under the impetus of Samuel and Mrs Beeton, but the tone - uxorious, domestic, gossip - varied little.

A niche for this sort of magazine survives: My Weekly, founded in 1910, still maintains that world of recipe-swaps, needlework tips, and the 25 prize for a reader who devises a new wrinkle for lifting candlewax from the carpet.

Cynics will allege that aspects of Cosmopolitan show no advance on its Victorian predecessors. The "From Fat to Flat" enthusiasts at the Cosmo show, they will say, might as well have been peddling whale-

bone corsets in an earlier age.

But the history of women's magazines is marked by the failures of those who thought that suffragettes or boilersuits alone could keep a journal going, from the Women's Signal of 1886 to the Spare Rib of late memory. To juggle the vain requirements of the mating game with radicalism about women's rights requires a very deft editorial hand.

The Cosmo formula, first launched in 1972, targeted the woman who wanted not always to wear a bra, but who would consider a silicon implant too. Whether this means, in 1996, that "there's never been a more exciting time to be a woman" is arguable. The fact is that the formula has worked.

Where Cosmopolitan led, others followed, and beyond. Yet for that impeccable stage of a modern woman's life - those years roughly between 19 and 30 before the assertion of rights yields to the assumption of duties - no other magazine is quite so male-friendly and fun. Two cheers for Cosmo girl: long live her next new look. *A Magazine of her Own, by Margaret Beetham, Routledge, £12.99.

Two designers who have found their feet

They work with shoes but are poles apart. Avril Groom reports on two contrasting styles



Patrick Cox, an ebullient bundle of energy: 'The Gucci loafer struck me as too thin and effeminate - I wanted something chunkier and gutsier'



Manolo Blahnik, self-confessed neurotic: 'Everyone in Europe passes through London at some point'

Manolo Blahnik is one of those rare designers whose Christian name becomes almost a generic term for anything made in their style - in his case shoes whose lightness and elegance belie their strength and comfort.

Patrick Cox may not be identified with his wares in quite the same way but Wannabe, the brand-name he invented for his loafer range, is now also used for the multitude of copies his look has spawned.

There is irony in the fact that these top footwear designers are London-based and choose to work in a country which no longer has a significant shoe-making industry. Neither of them is British and both manufacture in Italy.

Both were drawn to London by its creative energy - Blahnik during the 1960s and Cox on the wave of young design talent which emerged with the New Romantics of the early 1980s.

Beyond these similarities, they are poles apart, both personally and in business. Blahnik is a Spanish-Czech mix

brought up in the Canary Islands, a charming aesthete and self-confessed neurotic who works quietly from his flats in Bath and London or at his treasured Milan factory, and who believes that small is beautiful.

He has a two-roomed shop off the King's Road in London, its frescoed walls stacked with plain white shoe boxes and jewel-like shoes displayed on antique stands.

Cox is a go-getting Canadian who was already billed as a hot new designer before he had finished his training and whose live-wire energy has brought him, at 32, a £30m empire. He also started with a tiny shop stuffed with antiques (for sale), as well as shoes. It was well placed on a popular route near Sloane Square and now has a bigger version around the corner selling the younger Wannabe range, where the crowds leave no room for antiques.

Blahnik, 53, arrived in London with good connections and drifted into shoes via theatre design, much encouraged by Diana Vreeland of American Vogue. His clients were, and

remain, those who move between newspapers' society pages and the world of fashion, many of them personal friends. He has interpreted most of the shoe trends of the past 25 years, and has invented some of them. He makes his own prototypes, sculpting heel-shapes from wood and sewing

In women's styles, Cox produced 'fetishistic shapes' with high stilettos, ankle-straps and chains

on the finest details that are then put into production by several small Italian factories. Some special pieces, such as his beaded evening shoes, are worked in Milan by an elderly woman who used to embroider for Balenciaga.

But can such fine shoes be strong enough to bear even their rich and thin wearers? Of course, says Blahnik, folding a delicate mule double and flexing it vigorously. "The finish must be strong, however fragile it looks. I always seek the optimum combination of both factors."

His Chelsea hideout is his only European shop because, he says, "everyone in Europe passes through London at some point". He sells through Joseph in Paris and may eventually open in Milan but is putting off the possibility because

he hates "the responsibility of shops".

He has a cult following in the UK but America made his reputation. There, his slender stilettos were dubbed "cham-fur shoes", implying that they are only suitable for ladies with limousines.

He has a combination of shops and concessions in the US, where he makes personal appearances and has discovered, to his amazement, that Hollywood starlets such as Alicia Silverstone treat him as a celebrity. East Asia is his other big market - his latest thriving outlet is in Jakarta.

Blahnik puts his energy into new ideas. His first handbags - small, witty shapes in bright satin or Liberty-printed silk to match spring shoes - mirror his role as one of seven designers who contributed to Louis Vuitton's recent project celebrating the centenary of its monogrammed canvas fabric.

Most of all, he loves creating show shoes for favourite designers. This spring, he designed for John Galiano a futuristic needle-heeled shoe named after the artist Brancusi and he is working on Galiano's autumn collection for Givenchy. That, he says, is more exciting than selling more shoes.

Patrick Cox, on the other hand, will not do shows, either for himself or any other designer. He worked with Vivienne Westwood and Body Map on their shows while at college and with other leading designers such as John Galiano and Anna Sui since.

But, in contrast to Blahnik, he now prefers the entrepreneurial cut and thrust. A slender, ebullient bundle of energy,

he may have started as a shoe designer but is now much more. Every season seems to provoke a new Cox direction.

He started with men's shoes "because that is the British shoemaking tradition". But when he turned to women's styles he produced what he describes as "quirky, fetishistic shapes" with high stilettos, ankle-straps and chains.

These won a cult following but he could not get them made to his satisfaction in Britain. The 1988 move to Italian production helped him develop his style of bold, colourful shoes in the vanguard of fashion but always wearable.

The Wannabe changed all

that. It started as a design for himself. "I wanted a white loafer like Peewee Herman used to wear. The Gucci loafer struck me as too thin and effeminate - I wanted something chunkier and gutsier."

His design, with its stubby toe, ridged moccasin front and thick rubber or transparent heel and sole, started out in his main range but soon developed with the young club crowd who found it a more comfortable and stylish alternative to training shoes.

Soon every shoe company had a Wannabe look-alike. And when Cox found one Italian version that was cheaper and

better quality than his own, he asked the manufacturers to take on all his production.

The shape changes each season - different toe-outlines, heel heights, trims and fabrics - so connoisseurs build up a Wannabe wardrobe. The python-skin version (expensive because the main body is made from one piece of skin) has proved popular. Cox also turns out tan suede versions for country ladies to walk their dogs in.

The 175,000 pairs of this new classic which he sells each year are the foundation of an empire which includes three shops in France and one in New York, numerous store

concessions, bags and other accessories. He has been accessory design winner at the British Fashion awards for the last two years.

Cox is aware that Wannabes may reach saturation point, so he is building up his main range. This spring's modern, nostalgic styles have black heels, squared-off toes, punched details, bright colours and witty finishes such as a bold dogtooth check.

So far, Cox's meteoric rise has been charmed. And now that he has a clothes range, he is being pressed to have a show. "I have got this far without a show," he responds. "I don't need that kind of stress."

Original BOSS-SASH
or HINGED
FRONT DOORS
FRENCH DOORS

The finest timber
superbly crafted.
Double glazed.
The finest
hinges and
locks.

Write or phone, at the Head Office
The Original Boss Sash Window Company
40, ST. MICHAEL'S, WIMBORNE, Dorset, BH15 1BB
Tel: (01203) 856196

Pure Silk Ties. The Finest Gift.

100% PURE SILK
HAND SEWN. Over 100
Designs. All at £10.95. All
in the Muchen Silk FREE
colour brochure. Superb
quality and real value for
money. Also silk shirts,
waistcoats, boxer shorts
and loungers.

For your copy please call
0171 274 8887
(24 hrs) or write to
Muchen Silk, De Fries
PRESTON, PO Box 3482,
London SE5 9BR

Ties

Ermenegildo Zegna

37 New Bond Street, London W1. Tel 0171 493 4471
42 Shelton Street, Covent Garden, London WC2. Tel 0171 497 0001

TRAVEL

Where Ballesteros leads, tourists follow

Golf is leading the march in the trend to combine holidays with sport. The world's top players put resorts and courses on the map – and the paying public can follow in their footsteps. Over these four pages, FT writers highlight the best and the bizarre. Here, Derek Lawrenson tees off in Jamaica and Florida

Only 24 people watched Severiano Ballesteros's first round of golf for five months at the Moroccan Open in March, and eight of those were representatives from the British press.

Elsewhere, Ian Woosnam, the other household name who was playing, drew a gallery that varied between seven and 10, depending upon the hole. The majority of players were watched merely by their caddy.

Why do sponsors put up big money to host these events throughout southern Europe and northern Africa, when there is a palpable lack of interest among the locals? There is only one reason: golf being the one sport that allows the public to walk in the footsteps of the famous, they hope to attract holiday players to follow in their footsteps.

Indeed, without the help of various tourist boards slavishly believing in this, the European Tour – the organisation that runs the European programme of golf tournaments – would probably not open for business until May. Tunesians, the Spanish board, has put so much money into the professional game over the last decade that the 1997 Ryder Cup was awarded to Spain, largely as a thank you.

The formula works. It is surely not merely coincidence that, as a result, Andalucía remains the favoured destination of most golfers from Britain when choosing their trip abroad, although it is interesting to note that tastes have also become more exotic.

Luxury holiday specialists Elegant Resorts has seen its golf-related business develop to such an extent that it is launching a "Golf Resorts of the World" brochure next year. The destinations featured will be as diverse as Mt Juliet in Ireland to the Datal resort in Malaysia.

Geoff Moss, its managing director, explains: "It is not merely a coincidence that many of the holidays that are selling particularly well for us are those that offer some ele-

ment of golf. We have seen a huge surge in interest in the sport in recent years. Five years ago it would have accounted for about 10 per cent of our business but now it is more like 25 per cent, and I think this is a clue as to where the future lies for the holiday market in general.

"People are more independent these days, they have grown tired of package holidays. They are interested in vacations that combine some element of sport, and golf is at the forefront of this market."

Certainly, the growing golf holiday business has evolved from the days when it encompassed merely a group of men intent on emulating Ballesteros by day and reliving their youth by night.

The increasing numbers of women who have taken up the game, or who are prepared to have lessons while on holiday, has led to a sea-change in what people want from their fortnight away. Elegant Resorts is organising a tour to Mauritius in October and expects most of the travellers to be couples.

The game's pristine image has also been used as a commercial tool to help deal with adverse publicity. Jamaica and Florida were two destinations that were struck off many people's holiday lists after stories of tourists being killed.

It was difficult not to have great sympathy with the owners of the Half Moon Club in Montego Bay, who have put together the complete golf resort. The only shots you have to worry about there are those you will play on the golf course.

The Johnnie Walker World Championship, held nearby at Tryall every December, drew attention to the fine golf available in Jamaica. Certainly the setting is sumptuous, with the short fourth hole laid out alongside the shoreline. On the back nine, the course moves up into the mountains, and offers breathtaking views.

The 18 holes at the Half Moon Club – it takes its name from the shape of the beach upon which it was originally set – was similarly



designed by Robert Trent Jones, the golf course designer.

As with many other resorts, the Half Moon has a golf plan, designed to cater for husbands and wives who intend to play during their holiday. Actually the Half Moon has so many plans one could easily spend a night planning which plan to have. The best is the imperial plan, where everything is included in the price.

We stayed at a villa overlooking the sea and built on the property. All villas have private pools and staff who cater to every reasonable whim, from cooking meals to preparing drinks and washing clothes. The price for a three-bedroom villa

is \$4,190 for a week, excluding flights.

Like Jamaica, Florida, the third most popular destination for British golfers after Spain and Portugal, is regarded by its first-class resorts.

In December I visited the Boca Raton Resort and Club, about an hour from Miami airport. I had dinner one evening with the resort's president, and he froze when I mentioned the words tourists, guns and bad publicity. He regarded it as ridiculous as staying away from Britain because of IRA terrorism.

Boca Raton has achieved a certain fame among golfers in recent weeks. German player Bernhard

Langer, one of its most famous residents, has renewed his acquaintance with the dreaded putting "yips". How convenient, then, that Dave Pelz, the golf teacher who specialises in short game techniques, is based at the Boca Raton Resort and Club. Langer has become a regular customer. Not that Pelz needed a plug. His golf schools sell out almost as they are announced.

The best golf resort that I have visited has become even better over the last year. To celebrate its centenary in 1996 the owners of Pinehurst, North Carolina, commissioned a new golf course, perhaps extravagant, considering they already had seven to offer their

guests. But the new course, designed by the renowned American architect Tom Fazio, opened for business last month and I am pleased to report it is a beauty.

Surrounded by all these golf courses, one might imagine Pinehurst to be infected by the American idea that equates size with quality. But in fact it is not tainted by such garishness at all. The hotel is elegant and sedate and the drive up to it sublime. The small village of Pinehurst is almost English in its understated manner.

The courses go by no fancy names. Numbers suffice, and while it can cause confusion – the new course, number eight, for example,

is ranked number two – it also characterises the essential simplicity of the place.

Do play number two, the venue for the 1999 US Open, where one can walk gloriously free of the hindrance of a cart that is sadly compulsory on so many courses in the US. Designed by the Scotsman Donald Ross, number two is right up there with Shinnecock Hills, Pine Valley, Augusta and Pebble Beach – the five shimmering jewels of American golf.

Derek Lawrenson travelled to the Half Moon Club and Boca Raton Resort and Club with Elegant Resorts, The Old Palace, Chester CB1 1RB (01244-597999).

Portugal

Drive to be best in Moorish surroundings

Portugal's first golf course at Oporto was opened in 1890 by British wine merchants. In the 1930s, Estoril, near Lisbon, was a playground for the called rich, but it was the Algarve, with the prospect of year-round sunshine and a new airport at Faro, which established itself as a popular golfing region in the late 1950s and early 1970s.

Vale do Lobo, Vilamoura and Quinta do Lago were the first to take off in the central area of the 150km coastline stretching from the Spanish border to Cape St Vincent in the extreme west. Vale do Lobo was the brainchild of Sir Richard Costain, the builder, who saw it as a latter-day Eden.

Today, its 27 holes – the original 18-hole course was designed by Sir Henry Cotton, one of Britain's greatest golfers – are surrounded by a 1,000-acre estate of villas, townhouses and apartments, and 26 other sporting activities.

Vilamoura has three courses, a marina, casino, air strip and a master plan to house 55,000. Quinta do Lago sees itself as a kind of Beverly Hills of golf, with the new San Lorenzo course joining the four nine-hole loops.

The central area has sophistication and prices to match. The mix is different in the western Algarve, where Moorish patterns are more obvious, and life has a simpler rhythm. Penina, for example, Cotton's pioneer course between Portimao and Lagos, stays close to his original concept although it has just undergone a 15-month reconstruction.

Its 180-room five-star hotel, also enjoying a 50m refurbishment, remains its own centre, set against the background of the Monchique mountains. It is primarily a place for a leisurely golf holiday rather than an excuse for an expatriate village. And while Granada has taken over from Forte's Meridien Group, the former owners' policy is likely to remain the same.

There is no clubhouse because the hotel is the clubhouse. Locker, pro shop and caddy-master office merge into reception and dining rooms. Hotel guests enjoy priority on



Parque da Floresta in the western Algarve, a golf course typical of the region

the tee but pay-and-play is perfectly possible, helped by two nine-hole courses.

Even from the front tees, the flat, implacable Penina with its avenues of trees and strategic water remains a test of long, accurate striking. Peter Dawson, the former Ryder Cup player formerly of Harlow in northern France, is golf director, and is encouraged by good reports of tees and greens, and fairways well served by rainfall which has ended the long drought.

The fifth hole now has a large lake in front of the green, the dog leg of the ninth has been banked and given a knuckle of bunkers, and the 200-metre 13th has an even larger expanse of water. Everywhere, the greens profit from mounds offering better sight lines.

Western Algarve golf properly begins at Carvoeiro, on the coast just below the wine centre of Lagos. The Gramacho and Pinta courses have to succeed in tandem with an intended housing development of 400 units.

The recovery from Europe's recession has been a slow one, and it is as well that Stuart Woodman, the English golfing director, formerly at Quinta do Lago, has ensured good use of the courses. A David Leadbetter Academy is starting in September, and that can only add to the attraction.

For the Pinta, Ronald Fream, the US architect, characteristically built on the natural landscape, which means the reten-

tion of such items as the dry stone Moorish walls and an ancient olive tree.

Gramacho has 18 greens and 18 tees and nine fairways. It is clever stuff, with fairways divided by rock outcrops and trees. The greens, Woodman says, are of Augusta standards.

Ten miles west over the Portimao bypass and bridge across the Arade river, a left turn at Penina brings the coastal resort of Alvor and a 1981

The dog leg of the ninth has been banked and given a knuckle of bunkers

development known as the Alto club. The 6,125-metre course was Cotton's last. The first nine holes are a parkland test with views to Lagos Bay. The course then turns inland to hills, and the longest par-five in Europe, at 604 metres. Any golfer making a birdie earns a certificate from the English club pro, Robert Bridge.

Five miles closer to Lagos, across a dampled estuary, Dennis Garvey is the English secretary of Palmares, a club with no dependency on development. Since 1976 Palmares has provided a genuine flavour of old Portugal. In the early days

it was inconceivable that a golf club could be south of the N125 over the crooked track from the little village of Odosouro.

At Palmares, Frank Pennink contrived five links holes falling away to the deserted white dunes of Mesa Praia and climbing back for 13 undulating fairways among fig and cork trees. The view northwards is to the wild mountains of Monchique. The greens are closely shaved, motorised carts are available in the heat, and the group ahead is as likely to be German as British.

But Palmares has a timelessness of its own and at between £30 and £35 a round, it is one of the cheaper courses at a time when Portuguese golf is becoming expensive. Farthest west, five miles beyond the maritime sweep of Lagos, Parque da Floresta offers the quietest challenge of the Algarve. The cartoonist Mordillo might have designed the original, with the 577-yard first threatening a descent into an abyss, and the bump of the fifth readily returning you there. Pepe Gancedo, its designer, is a former Spanish amateur champion.

John Samuel

Western Algarve golf, Portuguese Trade and Tourism: 0171-494 144; Alto (02) 40 10 67; Carvoeiro (Pinta, Gramacho) (02) 34 21 68; Palmares (02) 76 29 51; Parque da Floresta (02) 653 33; Penina (Forte central reservations): 0245-414040, (02) 41 54 15.

GOLF

BOTLEY PARK HOTEL
GOLF & COASTAL CLUB
AA & RAC AA Resorts
18 hole Golf Course set in 170 acres of landscaped parkland.
First Class Leisure Complex with indoor pool, tennis, squash & hair salon.

GOLF BREAKS
£80 per person per night includes daily round of golf, 4 course table d'hôte dinner, English breakfast and VAT.

For further details & reservations:
01489 780838
Winchester Rd.
Botley, Hants SO32 2UA

GOLF DE SAINT-JULIEN, NORMANDY, France
Just off the A13 motorway at Pont-l'Évêque, Golf de Saint-Julien is 15 km from Deauville and the new Port de Normandie which links La Havre to Honfleur.

Set in typical undulating Normandy pastures, Golf de Saint-Julien offers 18 and 9 hole courses. Green fees are attractive for visiting players.

Weekend and French Bank Holiday: 230 F Mid-Week: 170 F

GOLF DE SAINT-JULIEN
Saint-Julien sur Colonne
BP 76, 14130 PONT-L'ÉVÊQUE FRANCE
Tel: (0433) 31 64 30 30 Fax: (0433) 31 64 12 43

Tim Best Travel

THE BEST IN SPECIALIZED TRAVEL

Zimbabwe Kenya Mauritius South Africa

COMBINE A GOLFING HOLIDAY with

A SAFARI IN AFRICA

63 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 3LQ
Tel: 0171 591 6360 Fax: 0171 591 6361

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR LEISURE BREAKS

Puckrup Hall is a perfect choice for your leisure and golfing break. Conveniently placed to visit Standard-Open-Avon, Chesham, Worcester and The Cotswolds, this 4 star luxury hotel is set amidst 140 acres of parkland per 71 Golf course in the lee of The Malverns.

Add superb food, first class accommodation, the extensive health and leisure facilities of "Generations Leisure Club" and you have an ideal venue for golfers and partners alike.

PUCKRUP HALL HOTEL AND GOLF CLUB
Puckrup, Tewkesbury, Glos, GL20 6EL
Tel: 01894 296300, Fax: 01894 296308

SPECIAL MIDSUMMER LEISURE BREAKS
£59.50

MARBELLA Spain

HOTEL LOS MONTEROS

"Escape to Golfers' Paradise"

From £49 (9,990 Ptas) + 7% VAT per person in double room Includes champagne buffet breakfast

Private Beach Club • 4 Swimming Pools • 3 Gourmet Restaurants • 4 Bars • Live Music • 10 Tennis Courts • 5 Squash Courts •

ENJOY UNLIMITED FREE GOLF at our 18-hole championship course RIO REAL, considered one of the four best courses in Marbella.

Tel: (34-5) 282 38 46 Fax: (34-5) 282 58 46

EAST SUSSEX NATIONAL GOLF CLUB

EAST SUSSEX NATIONAL SAYS NO!

A 'no risk' fully transferable investment

Phase IV Membership £1,750

Annual Subscriptions £1,500 (Reduced Subscriptions for family membership)

For full information pack 01825 880088

Little Horsted, Uckfield, East Sussex TN22 5ES

Golf and Travel

Greenbank, Eile, Fife, KY9 1BW
Telephone 01333 330389

Make a note of these details NOW.

Use them when you want details of a superb individually planned golfing holiday service. No "standard packages"; each itinerary is planned individually.

We specialise in France, Spain, Ireland and Scotland with consultants in Canada, U.S.A., South Africa and Australia.

Whilst care is taken to establish that our advertisers are bona fide, readers are strongly recommended to take their own precautions before entering into any agreement.

0171 591 6360

TRAVEL

French women of a certain class and style are especially keen on golf. The driving ranges which preface every serious French course often see them in an earnest, elegant row, their swings loosely derived from the tennis court.

Many have obtained their Green Cards from the French Federation, but it is more a licence to operate than a determination of handicap. It means you have learned the rules of etiquette and know broadly how to conduct yourself on the course.

Self-deprecation is sometimes a Gallic way of getting back at the English, and no European country has built more golf courses in the last 15 years nor made more effort to accommodate foreign tourists, as well as its own, than France.

John Gould's Golf Academy at the Frégate is always busy. It is a course as natural as it is beautiful, artfully shaped from exposed Provencal rock, pines and vineyards down to the cliffs which characterise the coast from Marseilles to Toulon.

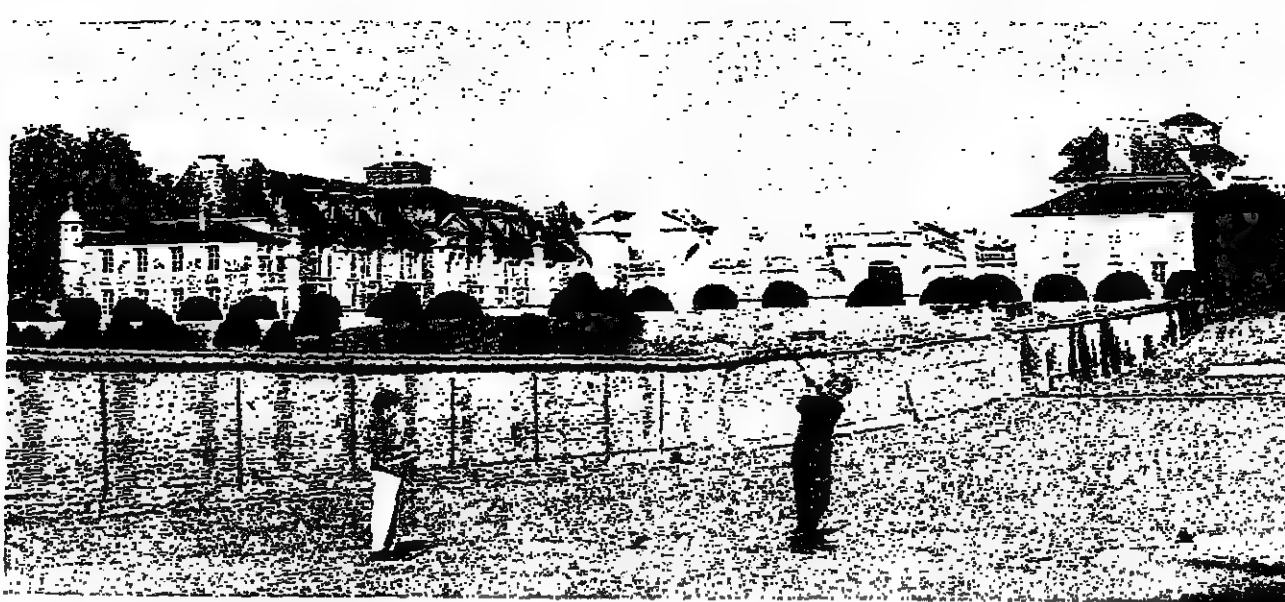
Gould, a burly Englishman, converted the misfortune of badly pulled hand tendons, which ended his tour ambitions, into a club career at Mers.

France, he says, in addition to more tolerant handicapping, has sensible tee arrangements. A black marker on the very back tee is for the pro, the white tee is for the male under-15 (handicap, not age), the yellow for 15 and over, the red for the under-20 female, and blue for the 20 plus. "It makes rounds a little longer," said Gould, "but it helps preserve tees and is basically fairer."

The three-year-old Frégate course, is remarkably mature. Greenkeeping standards are high. There, Ronald Fream, an American architect, has created a golfing challenge. Nothing odd about that, except Fream is a non-golfer.

The 170-yard third is a short hole worthy of the term classic. The 10th has one of the most glorious views in golf, an overview of Mediterranean and mountain cragging out for a drive of soaring arc and straightness.

The Frégate is one of hundreds of golf and hotel complexes encouraged by the French Ministry of Tourism. For approved members, France



The Champ de Bataille course near Rouen

France / John Samuel

An infinite variety

Golf International (FGI), a collocation with the French Golf Federation, produces guides and maps, sets strict conditions on course standards, green fees and hotel rates and encourages group passes. So the Frégate is only one of a dozen courses available in the Var, most on a pay-and-play basis with no heavy booking and, it is claimed, no long waits.

That was certainly so on another Provencal course, Golf de la Sainte Baume, 30 minutes from Marseilles airport, flatish with a persistently demanding stream. The cobalt cliffs of Cézanne's Sainte Victoire mountains rim the eastern horizon.

More materially, Sainte-Baume has a nearby Relais and Chateau hotel, the Domaine de Châteauneuf, offering £250-worth of half-board and golf for two days. It is also one of seven clubs, from La Touquet in the north to Saint-Cyprien in Roussillon, offering holiday golf under an open golf banner.

This has nothing to do with Greg Norman or Nick Faldo, but everything that makes for country-club style golf: swimming pools, good tables, special privileges and discounts for annual membership.

Northern France is rather more crowded, especially courses served by the Channel tunnel and shorter sea routes. Francis Lesur finds demand steadily increasing for his two courses at Hardelot.

Since the French take their holidays en masse, this means crowded seaside courses in July and August, but some surprise.

Each hole was named after a wartime hero. My favourite was Marechal Montgomery

prisingly quiet times inland. Early summer and autumn are probably best.

Last October, with the precaution of hotel bookings, we set off from West Sussex, two couples sharing a vehicle on a five-day trip to the Normandy courses, Omaha Beach and Champ de Bataille. The courses proved a fascinating contrast.

Of the three Omaha Beach nine-hole loops, my favourite was Mer, overlooking the Inva-

sion beaches, each hole named after a wartime hero, and my special favourite the 540-yard Marechal B. Law Montgomery.

At Le Neubourg, 25 miles to the south-west of Rouen, the Champ de Bataille course adjoins a restored 17th century chateau.

You cannot expect to turn up and get a prompt tee time everywhere, and that is where specialist British-based operators will cut out the hassle.

Powder Byrne organised the Frégate. It cost £399 per person including two nights bed and breakfast, and scheduled Air France flights to Marseilles and 18 holes of golf daily. A nine-hole course is also available. Tuition with John Gould is extra.

Doug Mathieson, of BDH Golf, one of the most experienced short-break operators, sees increasing need for flexibility in his Channel coast and Brittany programmes where accommodation, green fees and ferry or shuttle crossings can be mixed and matched.

Families or groups may prefer self-catering apartments at Eurogreen, alongside Golf de l'Yvet at Boncourt, in Brittany, or cottages bordering the 37 holes of St Laurent, near the old port of Auray.

Zimbabwe / Barry Ward

The finest value golf in the world

It requires no mental effort to compute that the Triangle Golf Club, in the low veldt of Zimbabwe, offers the finest value in the world of golf.

The green fee is 12 Zimbabwe dollars, plus six for the caddy and perhaps two dollars for his tip - little more than £1.50.

Some might say that the Triangle course has only 11 holes, but I have seen few fairer courses. Seven alternate tees are so constructed that, without detriment to their strategic qualities, the holes are quite different the second time around.

The course is the focal point of a sports complex, built by the sugar beet company which owns much of the nearby town and surrounding countryside. Hence the subsidy, the unlimited staff and water, and the exceptional value.

Exceptional but not unusual. A five-course dinner in a first class hotel will cost the equivalent of £15, including wine, and the most expensive green fee, on courses of world standard, is £260, or about £16.

Rare value and good golf are only two of the attractions of Zimbabwe. Comparable in size to Spain, but with a population of only 10m, the country is still redolent of Hemingway's Africa; the era of white hunters and big game safaris, of tents pitched in the bush and drinks around a camp fire after dinner.

These days, though, the white hunters have become game guides at sumptuous safari lodges or luxurious hotels, escorting wide-eyed city slickers on dawn treks through the wilderness, tracking lion, elephant or rhino, before returning, neck hairs and shutter fingers well exercised, for a hearty breakfast.

Throw first-rate golf into that equation and you have the ingredients of an unforgettable holiday.

A British-owned travel company called Time For Africa has done just that, and more. Using six-seater aircraft

it flies small groups around the country to luxurious safari lodges and hotels, most of which have golf nearby. Hence our day at Triangle.

The advantages: no time lost covering vast distances, and exclusive access to off-beat Africa and its attractions. More, the holiday can be tailored to any duration or budget, with golf as required.

Over 12 days we covered 3,000 miles, visited several lodges and three big hotels.

Do not retrieve a ball from the lakes lest you disturb a snoozing crocodile

sampled some of the country's superb golf courses, went game viewing on foot and aboard elephants and experienced white water canoeing on the Zambezi River, near Victoria Falls.

There are 40 golf courses and at least half merit a debut. The big attractions are: Elephant Hills, a lay-out at Victoria Falls designed by Gary Player, the great South African golfer; Leopard Rock, a spectacular course which overlooks Mozambique in the Eastern Highlands; and Royal

Harare and Chapman's, neighbouring courses in the capital.

With a dozen or so courses nearby, one could enjoy a golfing holiday without leaving Harare, but Leopard Rock is only three hours by road and to miss it would be short-sighted. A bonus is its chateau-style hotel, one of the loveliest in Africa.

At the Elephant Hills course at Victoria Falls do not try to retrieve a ball from the lakes that dot the course, lest you disturb a snoozing crocodile.

And do not worry too much about the wart hogs and baboons that graze in the fairways. They will wander off as you approach. If not, your caddy will know what to do. He is obligatory, as at all clubs in the country.

They are full-time employees and very capable: they will give yardages and line of putt and, after a couple of holes, they will, generally speaking, be able to club you.

Standard practice is to stop at the half-way house and to give the caddy a tip so that he too can have a drink. Tips and fees vary but all clubs advise against over-tipping. It seems hard-hearted not to give a little extra. In sterling we are only talking small amounts. The top caddy fee is \$50 or a little under £4.

For brochures contact: Time For Africa on 01489-878593 or fax 01489-878504.



Leopard Rock, a spectacular course overlooking Mozambique

Barry Ward

GOLF

PARQUE DA FLORESTA
PREMIER GOLF & LEISURE RESORT with stunning views over the spectacular 72 course in the sea, Tennis Courts, Championship Bowls, Hatted Pool Complex, Fitness Centre, Restaurant & Bar.
■ 4 Ownership Option from £29,500 and Golf Village Houses from £94,500. ■ Luxury Villas with pool can be built to your design from £185,000. All owners enjoy a preferred tee off times & 50% off green fees.
For details of our brochure please telephone:
Andrew Beveridge on 01253 816850
or via our local telephone in the Ocean View House, (last off 411)
Monday 10th May 10-5pm
A QUALITY DEVELOPMENT FROM Vigia

Leisure & GOLF
FREE 20 page colour brochure
33 Dovecot Road, Liverpool, L18 2UP
0151 734 5200

EUROPE'S PREMIER GOLFING REGION
Enjoy beautiful views of the famous 'Los Arqueros Golf Course' from luxurious accommodation, new kitchen, laundry, lounge for 22 other top golf courses.
Golfing Holidays from only £250 pp, per week, includes Flight, Accommodation, Car Hire and 5 Rounds of Golf on various courses.
Details from: Horizon Holidays Europe, Tel: 01257 575778, Fax: 01257 575778

GOLF FOR BEGINNERS
Make a start and learn to play in lovely Borders. Professional instruction and accompanying games on several local courses.
Enjoy your stay in country house as family or couples. Weekly courses starting May.
(01835) 850768
(For more experienced golfers, improve courses available.)

Golfing in Catalonia
Alongside the Mediterranean with views of the Pyrenees, this is golf at its very best. We offer six championship courses, all at discounted rates and all within a short drive of our properties. We have a wide selection of apartments and villas to offer in beautiful locations. If you prefer a hotel golf holiday to self-catering, we can offer that, at some of the most in the area.
PCI Golf Holidays
Quality & Care
01202 486611, PCI

HOTELS
Luxurious hotel in the heart of England offers Tailor-Made Golf Breaks at your choice of 4 courses from £41 B&B. Inclusive of the use of magnificent facilities: indoor pool, jacuzzi, gym etc.
Call 01455 631122 for details.

THE CARLYON BAY HOTEL
LUXURY BREAKS
FREE GOLF ON OUR CHAMPIONSHIP 18 HOLE GOLF COURSE ALL WITHIN 250 ACRES OF MAGNIFICENT GROUND. SPECTACULAR COASTAL SETTING. PANORAMIC SEA VIEWS FROM MOST ROOMS.
COMPREHENSIVE LEISURE FACILITIES INCLUDING:
OUTDOOR AND INDOOR HEATED POOLS, SAUNA, SOLARIUM SPA BATH, TENNIS, SNOOKER.
TEL 01726 812304 FOR BROCHURE
THE CARLYON BAY HOTEL, ST. AUGUSTINE, CORNWALL, PL25 3RD

GOLF DU TOUQUET
LE MANOIR HOTEL ***
Pas de Calais, France
Le Touquet offers two well known courses:
- La Mer, reminiscent of Scottish links, restored to its pre-war glory.
- La Fécit, set among pine trees with new features.
Country house atmosphere at Le Manoir Hotel.
Special mid-week offer to Financial Times readers, valid until 31 July 1996. Bed and Breakfast, and golf: £75 France per day, per person, sharing a twin. Single supplement: £15 France.
Information and bookings:
Tel: (0033) 21 05 20 23 - Fax (0033) 21 05 31 26
B.P. 41 - 62520 LE TOUQUET, France

La Manga Club
Sotogrande/Valdearrama Atalaya Park
Play and stay at Spain's premier golf Resorts. Excellent golf courses and luxurious accommodation. Expert advice from our resident Golf Professional. Call now for a copy of our brochure.
01235 772828 Elite Leisure Resorts

QUINTA DO LAGO & VALE DO LOBO AREAS.
SUPERB GOLF, SEA AND COUNTRY PROPERTIES FROM £200,000
HARCOURT - PORTUGAL
TEL: 00351-89-398232
FAX: 00351-89-398300

AFRICA
Tailor-Made Safaris
ZIMBABWE GOLF HOLIDAYS
Choose from 40 superb courses in this beautiful country, with its delightful year-round climate.
Championship course inc. Royal Harare and Elephant Hills at Victoria Falls. Green fees from £6 - £15. Caddies £3.50 for 18 holes.
Tel: 01489 878593
or 0171 240 7585
Fax: 01489 878504

Irish Golf Holidays
Enjoy some of the most challenging and spectacular golf as well as comfort, good food and a warm Irish welcome. We offer flexible golf breaks of any length in Northern and Southern Ireland at over 80 of the best links and parkland courses. Fully detailed in our new brochure, they range from Adare to Ardglass and Waterville to Warrenpoint, old favourites and new gems such as the fabulous new Druids Glen. Stay in a variety of country houses, hotels or castles all near the course of your choice.
For brochures write or phone
TIME OFF
Freepost,
London SW1X 7YU
0171-245 0055
Specialist Golf Dept.
01334 479642

BUDOCK VEAN GOLF & COUNTRY HOUSE
Enjoy the unique atmosphere of this fine hotel situated in 65 acres of glorious parkland on the banks of the Helford River, in a designated area of outstanding natural beauty. Unlimited free play on our challenging golf course. Spectacular indoor swimming pool and tennis courts. Exquisite Gardens and National Trust properties nearby.
TEL 01326 520285 - FAX 01326 520092
BUDOCK VEAN, FALMOUTH, CORNWALL, TR10 6E

La Manga Club
Villas with pools
Golf/Tennis/Waterports
HOLIDAYS by Design
01444 401234

J & C Voyageurs
South Africa • Zimbabwe
Individually tailored golfing holidays Can be linked with game viewing 8 days from just £928 inc. flights
Tel: 01235 848747
Fax: 01235 848640
J & C Voyageurs, Bucklebury, Sunningdale, Berkshire, OX14 4AW
Flights are arranged in real agents of The Curzon Corporation Ltd ATOL No.2944 Fully Bonded

DALE HILL Hotel & Golf Club
A superbly appointed hotel with swimming pool & leisure facilities. Established par 70 course set in over 300 acres high on the Kentish Weald.
Summer Rates from £55.00 pp daily (inc. all day golf and vat).
01660 500112

GOLFING HOLIDAYS COSTA DEL SOL
Includes:
- 5 Rounds of Golf
- Return Flight
- Accommodation
- Car Hire
- For information and Brochure call
01904 631122

CONFERENCES
GOLF IN CHINA
The 2nd International China & Hong Kong Golf Finance.
Real Estate Development & Construction Exhibition Shanghai International Exhibition Centre
20 - 23 October 1996
FAX US TODAY
to secure your space in Chinese Golf Exhibition History
Golf World Exhibitions Australia
Fax: +61-9-321 6461
GOLF MEDIA GROUP

GOLF
par excellence
A NEW CONCEPT IN GOLF HOLIDAYS TO FRANCE
ENJOY FREE WINE WITH DINNER IN OUR LUXURIOUS COUNTRY HOUSES AND MAGNIFICENT VILLAS WHERE YOU WILL HAVE THE TOTAL FREEDOM TO RELAX AND PLAY GOLF WHENEVER YOU LIKE, WHEREVER YOU LIKE, ON GOLF COURSES THAT MUST BE SEEN TO BE BELIEVED.
For our full colour brochure
Tel: 01737 21 18 18
Fax: 01737 21 18 20

Elegant Resorts
SPECIAL GOLFING HOLIDAYS
MAURITIUS International Pro-Am Championship
with Global Golf. 11 days of unlimited golf including 4 days of competition with leading professionals.
6-18 October
from £1885 pp inclusive
01244 897 888
MAURITIUS Peter Alliss and Alex Hay Golf Week
A great success last year! A full week of leisurely and competitive golf with time for relaxation.
15-24 November
from £1610 pp inclusive
01244 897 888
CARIBBEAN The Barbados Festival of Golf at Sandy Lane
Stay 7 nights or more and enjoy some competitive golf in the company of celebrity sportsmen.
13-20 October
from £1150 pp inclusive
01244 897 999

A Revolution in Golfing Breaks
"There has long been a need to make the wonderful and varied courses of Britain and Ireland more accessible."
Chris Howard Jr (Chairman of Conner Jnr)
Now they are!
The Crystal Premier Britain brochure dedicates itself to the best golf courses in Britain and Ireland, introduced and endorsed by Christy O'Conner Jnr, it covers over 50 courses including Gleneagles, Turnberry, St Andrews, the Belfry and more. For a FREE colour 180 page brochure clip coupon, or call: 01235 824 324 (24hrs) PREMIER
Britain
Return to: Crystal Premier Britain, PO Box 35, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 4SP
Name: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____
IATA

SPORT

Sporting Profile

Faldo: the greatest golfer Europe has bred

Why this man? Why now? Derek Lawrenson on a real champion

Is Nick Faldo the finest European golfer of all time? There is not much doubt now. In March supporters of Harry Vardon, Harry Cotton and Severiano Ballesteros could still have put up vociferous arguments in favour of their man, but what happened at the Masters last month means only the one-eyed follower would try now.

Over the next fortnight Faldo will be making what amounts to a celebratory tour of southern England, playing in the Benson and Hedges International at the Oxfordshire and then the Volvo PGA Championship at Wentworth. No doubt many who will turn up to watch will do so wondering: Why this man? What makes him better than anyone else?

Certainly if golf was purely a game of skill then Faldo would not make the top 50. If it was about who could hit the ball hardest then he would not figure in the top 1,000. If it was about personality, there are not enough noughts available. Instead, perhaps the answer lies in an insightful tale that Joyce Faldo, his mother, tells when her son was 13 and golf was the furthest thing from his mind.

"He was obsessed with cycling," she says. "He had two bicycles, one for road racing and one for the track, but he did not want to just ride them and improve his fitness. He wanted to know how the bikes worked as well. He would sit for hours in the garage, dismantling them and seeing how the parts fitted. Then he would put them back together again."

Eleven years ago, unhappy that he had not won a major championship, Faldo dismantled his golf swing. He threw out the bits that did not mesh perfectly and worked for two years on creating something that he could trust completely under pressure. From 1987 to 1992 he dominated the game, winning five majors.

During the following two years he was less successful. It was time, once more, to dismantle, to refit. Faldo believed his problems lay with his putting. So he parted company from the European tour to rejoin the US tour, where the greens are invariably in better condition. He is now, statistically, the best putter in the US and so mastered Augusta's

notoriously difficult greens last month that he three-putted just once in 72 holes.

All this sounds perhaps just logical on paper but it involved enormous courage and sacrifice. Anyone who has simply tried to grip a golf club properly knows that the hands are being asked to do something for which they were not designed. To dismantle a swing that one had used for 12 years, and with which one had enjoyed the kind of success that would satisfy 99 per cent of golf professionals, emphasises that Faldo was born with considerable reserves of what Jack Nicklaus once referred to as "the deep stuff".

Yet that was just stage one. When he stopped winning in 1993 and 1994 Faldo left his wife and three young children in Britain, and the months apart while he worked on his putting in the US eventually led to a separation that will culminate in divorce.

What people rightly marvel at is how inspired he becomes when championships are at stake and the golf of everyone else becomes untidy. Five of his six important victories have come from being perfectly placed to take advantage when the player who had hitherto been leading crumbles under pressure. Faldo believes he is so good in these situations because he knows every moving part of his swing. "The swing is everything," he says. "Because I know it will stand up to the heat of the moment I don't have to worry about it when I am playing a shot. I just have to concentrate on the task in hand and that gives me an enormous advantage mentally."

The most impressive shot Faldo played at Augusta came at the par five 13th on the final day. He had just seen Greg Norman fall apart, dropping six shots to par. Faldo had assumed a two stroke lead and the moment had come to take the initiative.

Yet the shot he had to the green was fraught with danger. He had 200 yards to go, with Rae's Creek awaiting any ball that fell fractionally short. If Faldo had gone into the water, the momentum would have been lost and Norman would have gained heart. Instead he played what he later described as the "crispest shot I hit all week".

The great names in golf have earned their reputations with shots like that one. Faldo now stands tied 11th on the all time list of majors won and he deserves his place among the game's legends for the odds are stacked heavily against any non-American golfer reaching such heights.

Unlike tennis, three of the four majors are always played in the US, and clearly the American who grows up playing on American courses,

which are so different to those found in Britain, begins with an advantage. With three Masters titles and three Opens, Faldo's ambition now is to win a first US Open, something he readily admits that has developed into an obsession.

Faldo has become more likeable as he has matured. After winning his first major, the 1987 Open, he forgot to mention the runner-up, Paul Azinger, in his speech, a

terrible discourtesy in a game where etiquette is paramount. Five years on, after his third Open victory, there did not appear much improvement. This time he did commendate with the runner-up, but then went on to thank the press from the "heart of his bottom". All around the 18th green spectators sat in the excruciating silence that only a vulgar joke delivered in poor taste can produce.

But the US has improved him and his jokes. At one press conference, on the eve of a long holiday, he said: "If anyone wants me over the next month they will have to ring 1-800-FISHING."

Then came his spontaneous gesture towards Norman at Augusta, when the pair embraced on the home green. It was a poignant and powerful moment, the day a great purveyor of his sport became a sportsman in the fullest sense of the word.



Rugby / Huw Richards

Two codes still a world apart

For some, last Wednesday's game between rugby union champions Bath and Wigan, the rugby league champions - the 82-6 Wigan victory being entirely expected - might suggest that the two rival codes will eventually merge.

And Wigan's appearance today in the Middlesex Sevens at Twickenham might add to that impression. Indeed, it may happen.

But it is not quite as simple as that. A lot has changed in the last 101 years since the split over payments to players.

To start with, league is not exclusively professional. As well as the 35 professional clubs, there are several hundred members of the British Amateur Rugby League Association's competitions.

And, even if the codes were the same up to 1895, they have diverged substantially since. League's decision to drop the line-out in 1897 was the start of a process of differentiation which has continued to this day. This is not surprising. In 1895 rugby was still in its early stages. It was only 34 years after the formation of the first union and the playing of the first rugby international.

Divergence has gathered pace over the last 80 years. In 1986 the absence of a specialist hooker was widely regarded as a significant factor in Wigan's heavy defeat by St Helens in the Rugby League Challenge Cup final. To play without such a specialist still spells disaster for a union team at any serious level.

Many explanations could be advanced for Bradford Northern's 40-38 defeat by St Helens in this year's final, but the choice of prop Bernard Dwyer as hooker was not among them.

That shift reflects the two games. League, forever innovating in search of a faster, simpler, more exciting game, is a simplified stripped-down game developing a few basic skills - running, handling, tackling - to an extraordinary degree. Its players are versatile and to a great extent interchangeable, with moves between pack and backs common.

Union is complex and technical, with a wide range of specialisms - notably the ball-winning phases of scrum, line-out ruck and maul. Players, particularly forwards, are more specialised. The abbreviated game of union, played with seven a side, is probably closer to league. Anyone offered decent odds on Wigan for the Middlesex Sevens title today should take them.

Relations between the two codes have been unedifying. Union has mixed disdain with coercion and outright discrimination. Adrian Spencer was banned as recently as 18 months ago for playing unpaid with a professional league club. Yet union ignored blatant breaches in its own ranks and happily admitted players of other professional sports.

Sections of the league media and public have been prone to dismiss union with views to the effect that "they're a bunch

of pansies who can't tackle". There have also been attempts to prove statistically that league - where the ball is in play for twice as long as union - is the superior game.

This is proving unprovable. Union fans prefer union, league supporters prefer league. It could hardly be any other way. If Bath v Wigan helps insert fairness and sense into relations, that is fine. But it is not the same as unification.

Merging codes by combining rules is difficult. Australian Rules and Gaelic Football, closer in structure and without a century of enmity, failed in their attempt.

League might start taking scrummaging seriously. Union might wonder whether the line-out is more trouble than it is worth. And there is perhaps a case for it moving from 15 players to 13.

But all compromises stall on the tackle rule - the ball stays live in union and is dead in league. Hence union's potential for continuity, but also its risk-aversion. Much better to put the ball in touch than risk loss.

'The hard-core fan is in much the same boat as the political party activist'

ing it. League's tendency is for a stop-start game, but its teams are also prepared to attack from any distance.

There is little evident support for unification among the hard-core supporters who keep the two games going. On the last occasion when Open Rugby, the league magazine, polled its readers, support for unification was in last deposit territory. The two separate games are liked for different reasons by their supporters. If they were not both still called rugby, it is hard to see why anyone would be talking of mergers. American Football is from the same roots and it also split off in the late 19th century. No one is suggesting that should re-merge.

But the economics of modern sport have placed the hard-core fan in the same boat as the political party activist - dis-trusted, despised, taken for granted and marginalised.

The sponsor, the casual TV watcher and, above all, TV money have a higher priority. Real fans will probably turn up anyway - and income from there has proved insufficient for either game's ambitions. Both are increasingly dependent on a drip-feed of television money.

It will not be long before some television chief, with no sense of either game or their histories but a sharp eye for the main chance, starts pushing for unification. If Wigan for the Middlesex Sevens looks a good bet, either set of authorities resisting the blandishments of television executives is a bad one.

The Toezo

Give your toes 5 inches more tootsie room than any other airline to Canada on Air Canada.
miles with Lufthansa, Swissair and Austrian Airlines, British Midland and Air Canada's Ae

fresh 100 1520

OUTDOORS

Richard Cowper reports from Everest Advanced Base Camp in Tibet at 5,400 metres

Everest Expedition / Richard Cowper

The final push for the summit begins

Brian Blessed, the irrepressible actor and mountaineer, was due to set off in grand style early this morning for the North Col on his final push to the top of the world's highest mountain.

On his departure, Blessed's remarks showed his usual flair for the heroic: "As the great mountaineer Reinhold Messner said - 'we are going to voyage up there on a knife-edge. But we mountaineers do not have a death wish, we have a life wish.'"

Everest, however, is no lon-

ger the domain of a highly accomplished elite band of mountaineers such as Messner, but is rapidly becoming the playground of the western world.

Blessed himself is part of that vanguard. Accompanied by his entourage of personal guide, television director, two high-altitude cameramen and four experienced sherpas from Nepal, the bearded 58-year-old star of *Z Cars* and *Str Gals*

of Everest, is likely to find his route to the top of Everest more a matter of painful endurance than mountaineering heroics or great climbing talent.

In the last few days, more than 50 sherpas - several of whom have already climbed to Everest's summit more than once - and scores of climbers from more than a dozen expeditions have trodden a well-worn, if exhausting, route

to just below the 8,848-metre summit.

Even more significantly, sherpas from the Japanese, Indian and Norwegian expeditions have fixed permanent ropes on to the rock and snow virtually all the way to the top, allowing Blessed and his companions to clip on at Advanced Base Camp (ABC) and follow the line in safety as high as their hearts and legs will carry them.

A few acerbic members of the actor's expedition, organised by Himalayan Kingdoms of Sheffield, jokingly referred to themselves as "the British North Ridge Parasites' Expedition" as they have lazily acclimatised in comparative splendour down at base camp while other nationalities have done much of the hard work on the mountain.

Blessed's sherpas have, however, worked hard to make a

hazardous venture as safe as possible. They have set up a series of pre-stocked camps on the mountain in an attempt to minimise the effort for the actor and his saffis now the final summit push is under way.

Most important of all, however, the 16-stone romantic, who identifies closely with George Leigh Mallory, the famous British mountaineer who disappeared on Everest in

mysterious circumstances in 1924, has agreed to use oxygen. Like Mallory, Blessed believed until recently that only "rotters" would be so un sporting as to use this artificial aid.

An unusually contrite Blessed said: "The pressures on me to get to the top are enormous - from film makers, to sponsors, to friends and to hospitals. I don't like using oxygen. I don't want to use it.

But I accept I won't get to the summit without it. So I'm going to be a good boy."

So, too, will most of the 200 or so other climbers planning to tackle the same route to the top of Everest over the next few days.

Unfortunately, my day of high altitude sickness may prevent me from getting much above 7,000 metres on my summit push next week now that I am back on the mountain after three days' rest in Kathmandu.

The expedition has been made possible by Himalayan Kingdom Expeditions, North Face, Bollé, Lufthansa and Berghaus.

Gardening / Robin Lane Fox

Women in the garden

Like gardens, the ranks of gardeners are regenerating themselves, the process on which the entire art depends. The next few weeks should bring in a good crop of converts.

Azalea and magnolia gardens are still at their best, thanks to the late spring. Chelsea flower show looms, where the crowds are no longer such a deterrent, thanks to the streaming of visitors and the considerable rises in the price of a ticket.

All around us, nature is growing furiously and there is a temptation to join what you cannot beat and try to become the gardener that your parents never were.

Gardening has appealed to almost every human type, but there is still a strong belief that it appeals especially to women. The gender factor faces new constraints. In the old days, gardening was an area in which male and female could be active on equal terms.

There was a feeling that the garden could be left as the woman's concern, an alternative to the kitchen or the children. It was never true that women were better gardeners or history's main gardeners: Eve has continued to have many helms. But the divisions of domestic life did leave the garden open to feminine art and it is here that the new converts might like to pause, think and take encouragement. Is the demise of the housewife going to alter the future intake of keen gardeners? Once, he left home on the morning train and she coped with the children, carting them into the garden whenever possible and leaving them to sleep or amuse themselves while she got on with the job.

Nowadays, she goes to work too, but digging and weeding are not within the scope of an au pair's contract. I have yet to meet a horticultural nanny, so keen that she weeds her employers' flowerbeds just for the fun of it.

Will the tradition of feminine interest survive the change in female circumstance? I see every sign that it will, because gardening has an appeal which does not depend on the imbalance in old gender roles. In my experience, it is gender neutral. Women and men are

equally likely to be good at it and their taste for it goes beyond a particular balance of genes or social roles.

Nonetheless, it is fascinating what each sex says, on occasion, about the other. I have listened to earth-shaken older women in dungarees, telling me that gardening is women's work because they intuitively know how to handle the world of herbs. I was also told, only last year by one of our greatest living male gardening writers, that women are never really good gardeners because they cannot see the broader picture. They plan and plant in fussy, unrelated detail.

These stereotypes are marvellously illuminating about their proponents, not about the subject. I really could not define a female style in the garden, and I would never agree that it is fundamentally a female art. I would, however, agree that women have written some of the best things about it. So have men, but each side should remember the other.

In this spirit, I would like to direct potential converts and arthritic enthusiasts to a magnificent collection of female writing on the subject. Gardening anthologies are not often a thoroughgoing garden of flowers, but Deborah Kellaway has put together a classic which is the perfect companion for the new season. The *Virago Book of Women Gardeners* (Virago, £7.95) has already been read on Radio 4 and ought to tip the scales for anyone who is wondering if gardening is the pursuit for their future lives. Men will enjoy it as much as women.

We all like to find fore-runners in things which we have found for ourselves that we enjoy. If we find them early enough they become companions and inspirations, if only to do the opposite from what they suggest.

Deborah Kellaway has found so many kindred comments from the past 200 years that my own ideas of garden progress have been turned on their head. Of course there are the expected voices, Vita Sackville West or Marion Cran. But there are dozens of others which encourage or reassure.

The older authors are excellent advisers about time. "It is possible within 20 years, to cre-



'July Sunlight, Roomed in the Garden at Kings Avenue,' by Douglas Starnes Gray (1890-1958)

Spook & Son

ate a reasonably presentable garden, losing that look of newness, which we associate with the narrow orange labels of nurseriesmen, fluttering from the wrist-slender stems of young trees." How few of us remember nowadays that the process is slow and cannot be curtailed.

There are excellent comments throughout this anthology about the ways in which one idea leads on to another. In 1803, Mrs Ely was already telling her American readers to start with the advice of a good landscape gardener, "but do not follow it, at least not at once, nor all at once. Live there for a while, until you yourself begin to feel what you want and where you want it."

From unexpected sources, surprising historical echoes emerge. In 1924, we learn that: "In America 'ghost' gardens are rather the fashion. Here everything is dim and subdued, including only plantings of white flowers and silver leaves." The great White Garden at England's Sissinghurst was still 20 years in the future.

The great Miss Havergal condemns the regimented plant-

ings of Oxford college gardens in words which could still be circulated around most common rooms. In 1915, Mrs King concludes: "I have come to see quite plainly through several years of lost time that balanced planting throughout is the only planting for a garden that has any design worthy of the name."

Idiosyncrasies and curious advice run throughout the collection. In 1927, Lady Saxon was recommending "a loose jumper made of khaki or brown flannel" as part of the ideal outfit. In the 1960s, the spirited Xenia Field spoke up for picturing flower relationships as a better cure for insomnia than counting sheep. "Conjure up a window-box of flowers immaculate in growth and bloom, in brilliant patterns."

Sylvia Plath is predictably fulsome about beekeeping, but Anna Merritt is wonderfully good on a day's weeding as therapy in 1908: "After such a day my fingers are bleeding, but I have attained the most profound inward peace and blessed belief of having uprooted all my enemies."

Rabbits keep popping out from their burrows. In 1843, Louisa Johnson believed that

they would not walk on straw or jump any piece of string wrapped round a plant. In 1892, Germaine Greer tells us all to kill one and rightly wonders why there is so much fuss about hunting when rabbits and foxes are such pests.

From time to time, female-speak intrudes. Ms Jekyll's garden is "singing hymns of praise and thankfulness". There is some wonderful quash about wild flowers and there are just enough entries which try to be poetic to keep us amused among the practicalities.

Will the next generation of gardening women have time to leave such a variety of advice and insight in print?

Perhaps they will combine it with the double lives of work and motherhood; perhaps a minority will discover that there is not much point in working for money any longer and will turn to the garden as an outlet. The split between the sexes is not inherently active in gardening style and practice. We can enjoy it, in this new season, in an anthology for all our bedtimes, while wondering how the same themes will play themselves out in the changed pattern of the next 30 years.

Motoring / Stuart Marshall

New models and ruffled feathers

You can probably imagine how two women might react if they arrived at a smart wedding wearing dresses that were not identical but uncomfortably close to it. In which case, you will understand perfectly why there seems to be a slight frisson of annoyance, a ruffling of feathers, between Citroën and Peugeot over the launch of their latest small cars.

Citroën speaks of the Saxo, which will eventually replace its first proper supermini, the AX, as a new model. For Peugeot, the latest 106 - from which the Saxo differs only in detail - is no more than a substantially facelifted, improved and lengthened version of a four-year-old car.

Peugeot merged with Citroën several years ago to form the PSA Group. Citroën, the junior but by inclination more innovative partner, takes it amiss if its new Saxo is described as a badge-engineered Peugeot. And Peugeot is miffed because, at any rate in Britain, Saxos are likely to undercut their 106 counterparts by a few pounds as they fight for sales in the car market's most competitive sector.

Car buyers are well aware that since the 1980s all Citroën and Peugeot cars have shared major components such as engines and transmissions, although the sophisticated gas/hydraulic, self-levelling suspension of Xantia and XM remains a Citroën exclusive. Until now, PSA Group cars with the same vital parts have looked very different. For instance, no one would confuse a Citroën ZX with a Peugeot 306, although under their metal skins there is little of significance to set them apart.

Will the next generation of gardening women have time to leave such a variety of advice and insight in print?

Perhaps they will combine it with the double lives of work and motherhood; perhaps a minority will discover that there is not much point in working for money any longer and will turn to the garden as an outlet. The split between the sexes is not inherently active in gardening style and practice. We can enjoy it, in this new season, in an anthology for all our bedtimes, while wondering how the same themes will play themselves out in the changed pattern of the next 30 years.

But sideways on, I reckon that only their creators will be able to tell a Saxo from a 106. From front and rear, though, you know which side of the family they have come from. The 106 looks remarkably like its larger brother, the 306. In the Saxo, I thought I could detect slight styling overtones of both ZX and Xantia.

The interior trims are different but whether you buy Citroën or Peugeot, you get the same mechanicals. When Saxo goes on sale in Britain next week, there will be only one body, a three-door; a choice of

autumn. However, the manual steering of the Saxos I drove last week - mainly on country roads and motorways - was surprisingly light, and I thought at first it might have been power steered.

Safety and security items such as four-digit key-pad engine immobilisers, driver's airbag and pre-tensioned seatbelts are common to both marques. Anti-lock brakes (ABS extra on the Saxo) and passenger airbag (£190) will also be available on the 106.

As I have not yet driven any 106s, I can make no performance comparisons, although I doubt if there are any. Both the 1.1-litre and 1.4-litre Saxos rode and handled as comfortably and competently as any obvious rivals, which are listed by Citroën and Peugeot alike as the Ford Fiesta, Vauxhall (Opel) Corsa, Renault Clio and VW Polo. Pointedly, Citroën makes no reference to the 106, nor does Peugeot to the Saxo.

The Saxos felt more like medium-sized cars than superminis until it was time to park, when they slipped more easily into tight spaces. The 1.1-litre engine was, I thought, sweeter than the 1.4-litre and just as willing to sustain business motorists' cruising speeds on the motorway.

The yielding seats of the basic £7,350 1.1i LX appealed to me more than the firmer ones in the dearest £9,390 1.4i V SX. If you can do without electric windows, central locking and power-adjusted mirrors, the 1.1i LX looks the best value.

Fuel consumptions of the 1.1-litre and 1.4-litre Saxos in average use should be around 42 and 41mpg (8.73 and 8.9 l/100km) respectively. The diesel version will better this with 53mpg (5.33 l/100km).



The Citroën Saxo: the 1.1i LX pictured here looks the best value

one layer

AIR CANADA
A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

First... and you can collect your Frequent Flyer

from June 96). Details on Internet: <http://www.aircanada.ca>

BOOKS

Who wants to be a billionaire?

No one would after reading these two biographies, writes Paul Betts

These are the stories of two very rich Americans – so rich one was called the richest man and the other the richest woman in the US – and they make for very depressing reading.

They shouldn't. Both seemed to have everything, and more. Good looks, brains, fame, power, mighty sexual appetites (he seduced more Hollywood film stars than Don Giovanni's *mille* are she bedded General Patton, Errol Flynn and the notorious playboy Porfirio Rubirosa), and they both inherited barrels of money which they multiplied by their own business acumen.

He flew around the world when



Doris Duke: miserable old age

flying was still in its pioneering days, launched Jean Harlow and countless other sex goddesses, owned for a time most of Las Vegas, built aircraft and created one of the world's biggest airlines, became the first individual to own a Hollywood studio while being the largest supplier of electronic warfare systems to the Pentagon.

Her achievements were not of the same *disco* scale. She nevertheless built up one of the world's most profitable art collections, owned more US treasury bonds than any single other private investor, turned orchid growing into big business, was a spy in Italy during the second world war and worked for a while as a foreign correspondent.

No, these are not new books on James Bond and Mata Hari, but two new biographies on Howard Hughes, the secretive and eccentric billionaire, and Doris Duke, the

daughter of America's biggest tobacco mogul. And both tell the same old story that all the money in the world cannot buy happiness.

Howard Hughes and Doris Duke had miserable childhoods – Hughes loved by an over-possessive mother who kept him closeted from the real world and provoked his later obsession about germs; Duke disliked by a socially ambitious mother who kept her secluded in a New York Fifth Avenue mansion.

In spite of all their adventures and exploits – both in the bedroom and in the boardroom – they apparently never achieved fulfilment in their adult lives. Their old age was equally wretched, with similar patterns of drug abuse and neglect by associates and servants all too keen to get their hands on the financial empires of their respective masters. The epilogues to their stories are just as awful with years of litigation and bitter fighting over wills and billions of dollars of assets.

HOWARD HUGHES: THE UNTOLD STORY
by Peter Harry Brown and Pat H. Broeske
Little, Brown £20, 462 pages

TOO RICH – THE FAMILY SECRETS OF DORIS DUKE
by Pony Duke and Jason Thomas
HarperCollins £16, 271 pages

The latest Howard Hughes biography by a duo of American journalists is an exhaustive book based on recently unsealed court documents and interviews with more than 600 people close to the billionaire. It argues that Hughes was not, as many have suggested, mad, but suffered from an illness unknown at the time called OCD – obsessive-compulsive disorder.

One UCLA professor called him "the most famous obsessive-compulsive in modern history." With proper medication he could have been cured. He was beset by a chemical imbalance in the brain, probably inherited from his equally obsessive-compulsive mother.

There seem to have been no chemical imbalances with Doris Duke, although her upbringing, like Hughes', must have caused scores of other life-lasting imbalances. But then, both Hughes and Duke, lived in different worlds – a planet where all excesses were possible, a bacchanalia of money, lust, power and instant gratification. In short, the world of carpetbaggers.

The two biographies devote a lot of attention to the sexual exploits of

their glamorous subjects. It makes for some entertaining and racy tabloid reading. Hughes seems to have had every good looking girl in Hollywood: Ava Gardner, Rita Hayworth, Katharine Hepburn, Bette Davis, Lana Turner, Ginger Rogers, to name a handful.

Maybe there is a deeper point in all this. Doris Duke believed the very rich and the very poor often have the same attitude to sex. The very rich can buy almost everything except a climax; the very poor have nothing so when they experience great sex it is wonderful. So

being poor or being rich provides the freedom for sexual indulgence that usually escapes the middle classes, worried about jobs, mortgages and school fees.

Hughes and Duke also suffered the normal cycle of human disappointments and passions ranging

from unrequited love to professional setbacks (Hughes ended up losing his beloved airline TWA). Somehow, however, it is difficult to feel great sympathy for these two tragic figures. As the milkman once said: it is better to be rich and miserable than poor and miserable.

A less compelling and approachable novel than *Possession*, *Babel Tower* is more ambitious in its scale and themes. Byatt's range of literary reference is commanding, but ideas seem, on this occasion, to have overwhelmed both the characters and the plot. In her most recent book, a fascinating series of interviews on the subject of characters in six classic novels, she was at her best, discussing the ways in which Austen, Eliot and Murdoch, among others, establish the reader's interest in their characters and how they are brought to life.

Several of these novels are referred to here, for *Babel Tower* is, in its different way, an intensely literary in its concerns as was *Possession*. How baffling, then, and how disappointing to find that Byatt's enormous cast of characters are, almost without exception, lacking in the essential ability to hold our interest and sympathy. The ideas are, simply, too big for the multi-threaded narrative to contain.

Read the novel, then, not for emotional pleasure or for the twists and reverses which made *Possession* such a delight to read, but for the way in which, like an artful octopus, the book spreads its tentacles over a decade, sharpening our memory of its finer moments of madness – the Chatterley trial and the Profumo scandal. She also evokes the burning of books which refer back to the novel's central and disturbing image of a tower of learning which falls to destruction.

I read *Heat Wave*, Penelope Lively enriches a smaller canvas with the subtlety and sharp observation which is the hallmark of her work. The story, set at World's End cottage over a single burning summer in the Oxfordshire countryside, is of the breakdown of a marriage. Pauline, the narrator, has painful memories of her own promiscuous husband; now, helplessly, she watches her proud, quiet daughter suffering the same fate.

Lively's characters play out their unhappy drama against a background of the kind at which the author excels. Few novelists can compete with her in acuteness of vision and a language which is both deft and precise. A pretty tourist village is trapped in "a vice of ringroads" shopping centres beckon the consumer to "a glittering Savannah of car-parks" a field of coiled hay bales coaxes a field with giant cotton reels by day. At night, in keeping with increasingly sinister developments in the human story, the bales become "strange monolithic presences, a sculptural array gathered upon the slope of the hill, staring down at World's End with blank faces."

This skilful interplay between characters and the world they inhabit is the consistent virtue of Lively's work. *Heat Wave*, tant, thoughtful and compassionate, can stand with the best of it.

Miranda Seymour

TIME

THE WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE



HOWARD HUGHES

Money - brains - fun (sometimes).
(People)

Howard Hughes: his biography confirms the old story that money can't buy happiness

Value of studying an icon

This author has not made the most of his material, argues Samuel Brittan

At a private Conservative gathering, a speaker, who had advocated a pragmatic middle-of-the-road stance, was interrupted by the new party leader Margaret Thatcher. She took out a book from her briefcase, held it up for all to see and then banged it down on the table, saying sternly "This is what we believe." The book was Friedrich Hayek's *The Constitution of Liberty* by the Austrian-born political economist who became a British subject and who died in 1992.

There is a delicious irony that a book advocating individual diversity and spontaneous order should be imposed in such an authoritarian fashion – if this is really what happened. For I have yet to see this incident described from a source sympathetic to the former Conservative leader.

Andrew Gamble, who is a left-of-centre professor of politics at Sheffield, became interested in Hayek as a result of his work on some of the contradictions of the Thatcher variety of Conservatism. It is to his credit that he realised that Hayek was much more than a propagandist and that he had a message for people who were far from Conservative in political persuasion.

Hayek did not provide a consistent political philosophy (who has?).

For he embraced at least two different outlooks:

1. *Classical liberalism*, in the old English sense, with a strong emphasis on the rule of law, competitive private enterprise and limited government.

2. *Burkean conservatism*, with its emphasis on the superior wisdom of institutions which have developed with time. This strongly condemns the rationalist view that society can be redesigned from scratch by a central reforming drive.

Occasionally these different approaches, as in the nostalgic view of Gladstonian England, may point in a similar direction. But very often they conflict. In the old USSR, dictatorship and state control embodied the traditional wisdom; and the proponents of free elections or free markets could be accused of rationalism with which Hayek charged radicals in the west.

Without providing a complete system, Hayek nevertheless left us some most important key ideas – which he did not claim to have origi-

inated but which he helped to revive and develop.

The first is the idea of the market – not as a device for the optimal allocation of known resources by known techniques to serve known wants, as mainstream economists lapse into supposing – but as a dis-

HAYEK – THE IRON CAGE OF LIBERTY
by Andrew Gamble
Polity Press £45, 240 pages

covery mechanism which can utilise the dispersed knowledge of millions of widely scattered individuals and groups. The market is a social device, like language and law, which has gradually evolved and not been consciously invented. No kind of computer could hope to have the tacit knowledge – knowing how rather than knowing that – which a functioning market can provide. Nor can it predict the emergence of new knowledge, innovations, or people's reactions.

Gamble puts his hopes in some

form of market socialism, which can be compatible with this decentralised mechanism. Unfortunately, however, market signals are of limited value unless there is some reward for following them. That is why the abolition of central planning and price control has not proved sufficient in the former Communist countries without privatisation to make them effective.

Hayek's second main legacy is the importance of a government of laws rather than of men and women in protecting both freedom and efficiency. This was the aim of the Founding Fathers of the US Constitution and was revived by Hayek as the key to a revived constitutional liberalism.

Gamble explains this side of Hayek, but somehow he does not give it sufficient emphasis. This is rather surprising. For here is the aspect of Hayekian thinking which Conservative politicians – Thatcher as well as corporatist – most certainly reject. When ministers "decide" to finance ventures like the Pergau Dam they are substituting their own discretion for rules, procedures and conventions – and indulging in pretty bad economics as well.

There are other Hayekian themes to which Gamble might have had more sympathy without crossing the ideological floor. Hayek regarded majority voting as merely a convenient decision rule and was concerned to put limits on powers of a "temporary majority". There is no divine right of a majority, still less a plurality, to impose its will of the mandate doctrine which he made, but only when in opposition. Gamble finds this hard to take. But surely the Thatcher centralisation of power should have taught some lessons to reformist socialists? Hayek also fumed, along with many others, against the perversion of representative democracy into a competitive auction among interest groups? Why cannot Gamble give a resounding three cheers?

Gamble makes a strategic mistake in devoting most of his space

to an outline of Hayek's ideas and reserving his own assessments of its strengths and weaknesses mainly for the concluding chapter. Most of his outline is fair enough; but there is a lapse when he seems to attribute to Hayek some sympathy for the government of General Franco and the old South Africa without producing chapter and verse. In general, he would have done better to have summarised Hayek's main contributions at the beginning and written his own essay on both what he thinks is wrong with the whole Hayekian vision and on the aspects which he thinks that even democratic market-oriented socialists can use.

Hayek could not conceal his pleasure in the last decade or so of his life when his ideas became fashionable at least in some circles and he became an icon. But icons are not often studied in detail. Most of the Conservatives who praised Hayek not only failed to follow his principles: they were not even aware of what they were. He was simply an intellectual stick with which to beat their opponents. How many knew or know that he was not merely a theoretical federalist, but actively tried to promote the cause at a European level at the Mont Pelerin society he started after the second world war?

Gamble makes a strategic mistake in devoting most of his space

Poetry/Douglas Dunn

Sorrow and cerebral celebrations

CLAY, WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN
by Craig Raine
Penguin £7.99, 64 pages

sudden insights is probably better off in a tightly measured free verse than in metrical arrangements.

Cerebral energy, at times close even to egotism, constantly re-examines the pain of sorrowful poems as "Sibel" (spoken by a victim of the dreadful Mengele), or "Limbo", a prayer for someone's after-life which includes startling statements about illness. There is a lot of well-examined elegy and intimacy in his poetry ("For Hans

Keller", for instance), or the compassionate observation of sorrow, as in "Change", where the simplicity of Raine's manner of writing discloses a tender awareness of human hurt but excludes either under- or overstatement.

His celebratory verse is balanced to the point of sentient perfection by an ongoing contest with the grimmer realities of life – "a bedstead, sleeping rough, / like dead beloved bodies everywhere".

Indeed, that is what the book is about – a distribution of sorrow at the loss of friends and relatives while at the same time trying to protect what he calls "sustained wonder at the world – its limitless, offhand beauties, its mysteries

and its bleak brevities". It could be for that reason that *Clay, Whereabouts Unknown* is less viscous with figurative inventiveness than much of his earlier work.

Raine is not the only writer who possesses and practises a high degree of intellectual control over the sore subject. In prose several writers come to mind, for example Martin Amis (especially in *Time's Arrow*), or Ian McEwan, Julian Barnes, A. S. Byatt; and in poetry Paul Muldoon, Simon Armitage and Christopher Reid. It could be that "cleverness" in contemporary writing stands in need of critical investigation. There may not be enough of it, but there is rather a lot of it around.



Craig Raine: his writing discloses a tender awareness of human hurt

once read, or heard it remarked, that "There's a lot of cleverness in the world, but not enough". Cleverness has been the critical accusation levelled most frequently at Craig Raine's poetry. His celebrated smiles, metaphor-making, his Martinianess, have encouraged a flip response which somehow manages to ignore how sentient and emotional his poetry actually is.

There are plenty of examples in the title poem of his sequence "The Prophetic Book" – "the turban in a tangerine", "the lemon squeezer/in the man's urinal", or a car park seen from the air as a "pharmacy of amputees". But the poem goes out of its way to tell us how to read it and the rest of Raine's work. "I will bring you the beauty of facts", says the speaker, "There is so much to celebrate".

"I will pledge you what is here, a thousand kinds of bread, each with a shape and name, happiness and

155 من الالهي

BOOKS

Prepare to be transported

Cyborgs are cool, and the time is near when all limits will be gone, writes Michael Thompson-Noel

Had any good cybersex lately? Boosted your brain power with smart drugs and sought entranced enlightenment in the company of turned-on techno-hippy friends? Adorned yourself with cybernetic body art? Joined the cyborg bandwagon?

Cyborgs are really cool, man. They believe that the human body and brain are almost obsolete, and that the time is coming when we can download ourselves into computer memory, transforming ourselves from organic to inorganic, flesh to unflesh - homo sapiens to homo cyber.

Perhaps you have done none of those things. Perhaps you are still into necroculture - Paul Cézanne, Jane Austen, all those dead Greeks. If so, what you need to do is turn on, boot up, jack in, break free - to prepare yourself for a post-biological universe unbounded by limits of any sort, metaphysical as well as merely physical.

Not that we are there yet. There is still a little way to go. But we are approaching escape velocity, or so it is maintained. Hence the title of

this book, escape velocity being the speed at which a body, such as a spacecraft, overcomes the gravitational pull of another body, such as a planet.

"More and more," writes Mark Dery, "computer culture, or cyberculture, seems as if it is on the verge of attaining escape velocity." In short, the electronic media seem to be spinning us into the blurred, breathless world of what Marshall McLuhan in 1967 called "allotoneousness", where information pours upon us, instantaneously and continuously.

Dery, an American, is a critic of culture, especially fringe culture and new media, who sets his stall out stylishly. Cyberculture, he says, is starting to flower now that the information age has wrenched us out of the era of factory capitalism and into the post-industrial epoch of transnational corporate capitalism.

Manufacturing, it is said, is undergoing what Buckminster Fuller called the "ephemeralisation of work" - the replacement of actual workers and widgets by the manipulation, on computers, of symbols that make up an information economy trading in near-instantaneous - Hollywood movies, TV programmes, high-tech games and theme parks, one-minute megatrends, stock market data, trillion-dollar financial manoeuvres.

"We are moving," writes Dery, "at dizzying speed, from a reassuringly solid age of hardware into a disconcertingly wraithlike age of software, in which circuitry too small to see and code too complex to fully comprehend controls more and more of the world around us."

Increasingly, he says, the musings of scientists, science fiction writers and futurologists are becoming infected with turn-of-the-mil-

lennium mysticism. Physicist Frank J. Tipler has even reconciled physics with metaphysics by positing an Omega Point (the term is borrowed from French theologian Pierre Teilhard de Chardin). The Omega Point,

ESCAPE VELOCITY

by Mark Dery

Hodder & Stoughton £16.99, 376 pages

thinks Tipler, will be a point of infinite density and temperature towards which the universe will collapse in a reverse Big Bang which aficionados call the Big Crunch.

The energy generated by this implosion, Tipler theorises, could be used by a godlike intelligence to drive a cosmic simulator (think of *Star Trek: The Next Generation's* Holodeck) with so much processing power at its disposal that it could bring back to (virtual) life every

creature that had ever lived.

However, as Dery reminds us, the stories we tell ourselves about the future are an attempt to invest our sad lives with drama and meaning that transcend the decay and death which are everywhere around us. Indeed, placing our faith in an end-of-the-century *deus ex machina* that will help us escape the need to confront the problems - social, economic, environmental - clamouring for solutions is a "risky endgame", says Dery.

But *Escape Velocity* is not about endgames. It is (mostly) about the here and now, and is an absorbing guide to the new computer counter-culture apparently rushing at us.

It tells us more than we need to know about techno-hippies, technopagans, mind machines, consciousness technologies, apples, Nietzschean superchips, cyber-rockers, cyber-punks, cyber-body artists,

text sex, robo-bimbos, *coitus artificialis*, avant-garde surgery, nonlinear carbon thinking (as opposed to squared-off, logical silicon thinking), machismo vs machinismo, biomechanical tattoos and the fifth priggish level of complexity.

There is a lot of sex in *Escape Velocity*, although cybersex doesn't seem to have got very far yet. Dildos, for example, is not really into its stride, while full-blown teleildos - which sounds thrilling, but will require a global fibre optic communications network working in concert with massively parallel supercomputers - is, sad to tell, regarded as an early- to mid-21st century technology at best.

Still, things are warming up, and Dery - no prude - assures us that cyberspace will grow exponentially stranger as virtual reality technology develops. On the other hand, there is likely to be much work for

the lawyers if we do not get what we have paid for. For example, when showering after online, virtual-reality frolicking with a named and advertised celebrity - Cleopatra? Casanova? Marilyn Monroe? - how will we be certain that we have not been fobbed off with sex with an artificial intelligence descended from a grandmaster-level chess program? Very tricky.

All in all, Dery has produced an enthralling description of the new computer cultures, fringe and otherwise, that will soon be on offer. But there are two problems with *Escape Velocity*. First, it is too dense. His publisher should have stamped on a lot of the cleverness and cut it by 100 pages.

Second, the book is probably about 10 years premature. It is subtitled *Cyberculture at the end of the century*. Yet many of the things Dery describes have yet to happen. In 10 years' time, however, he will be able to update it.

In 2006, a book by Mark Dery about cyberculture at the start of the 21st century would be something to prize, whatever its price in euros.

The insider as an outsider

Jackie Wullschlager enjoys the insights of a very eminent career

In wartime ledgers noting a sailor's pay, the initials NE stood for "not entitled", used when so many fines were deducted from a man's wages that he got nothing at all. In these cases, a sailor would stare in dismay at the empty cap which should have contained his pay, then replace it on his head, salute, about-turn and complain to his comrades that "he'd got a f***ing northeaster" - vernacular decoding of the stricken NE.

"Sometimes," says Kermode, "simply to be in the navy was to be in a f***ing northeaster that never stopped blowing. Sometimes... to be alive at all was to have been born in the teeth of such a gale."

This is one of the most beautiful autobiographies I have read. Frank Kermode is a titled and eminent literary critic, but the sense of being not entitled is burnt into his vision and stamps each of the three disparate sections of this book with a precise, ironic individuality.

Growing up on the Isle of Man, he perceives that his class is entitled to neither material comfort nor intellectual curiosity. In the navy, recruits are not entitled to expect to live - when Kermode learns the violin, his sailor-teacher is killed, bow and chin-ped are sent to his widow, and "I was no more entitled to the virtuosity I yearned for than he was to live beyond the age of 26, or than she was to her husband".

He survives, becomes a writer, but is always surprised to have a job, and feels in charge of his life "in the way drunken drivers feel in charge of their vehicles".

His story is the classic, mid-century English one - now, alas, no longer possible - of the poor, clever grammar school boy made good. His first job was to see newspapers on the Steam Packet Company ships sailing from Douglas to Liverpool and his last was professor of English at Cambridge, accepted against his better judgment because "some miniature version of the log-cabin-to-White-House

myth was working in me". Every nuance, therefore, is a comment on social history. At the home of his first middle-class friend, Kermode toys with his asparagus. "I wouldn't have guessed that in England it is finger food; and when strawberries appeared I refused sugar, not because [at that time] I liked them without, but because after the strain of the asparagus I had simply run out of courage, and did not trust myself with the shaker".

Playing bridge from the Clyde to Reykjavik in a Polish troopship in 1941, he evokes his captain in the space of a trick: "It was as if playing the cards suited his idea of cunning, his power to divine weakness in an enemy's professions, whereas he was

NOT ENTITLED: A MEMOIR

by Frank Kermode

HarperCollins £18, 263 pages

content to leave the sissy business of bidding and making valuable contracts to the uselessly educated middle classes."

No one since Evelyn Waugh has written more hilariously of the absurdity of war. On a ship which was supposed - but failed - to lay an anti-submarine boom off Iceland, Kermode languished for years. Captains died by the week - one poisoned himself (from a diet of lamb's tongues and pink gin, exclusively), another shot his brains out, a third fell down the stairs.

Their bridge-playing successor was an illiterate brute who came to depend on Kermode to write his letters, but repaid him by never learning his name ("What the hell are you, Cosmo? A f***ing poet?" he nearly sank his own ship ("Well, Comode, it seems we're f***ing 'ad it"; the only time Kermode saw action was when his colleagues mistakenly shot down a Canadian plane).

"Tout le reste," says Kermode after Verlaine, "est littérature." Allusions glitter in his text - Tristram Shandy's image of sleeping diagonally across his bed informs

us of his single state, for instance - but barely a book is mentioned, not a name dropped, and Kermode continues to play the comic naïf. At Reading, he arrives late for an interview, finds the college closed, climbs through a window of a dark room to send its naked occupant shrieking out of the door.

As editor of *Encounter*, he is duped about the magazine's CIA connections and sued for libel. At Cambridge, he breaks under the public scandal about the structuralist lecturer McCabe, wakes one morning and simply resigns.

Recollections by the eminent which reveal doubt and mismanagement have an obvious, human appeal. Kermode talks ruefully about "the good writing that cannot help eliminating truth from autobiography. It tempers the prevailing northeaster of time", but what makes *Not Entitled* so magical is exactly his combination of painful honesty with exquisite prose and crystalline wit. It is as if Kermode refuses even to take words for granted, but measures, modulates, refines them, no sentence entitled to be read without working for its life.

What emerges is an insider who always felt an outsider, a famous scholar who always nursed a kernel of depression; a sociable man who was yet too solitary to make marriage work; "I return alone to this page, anxious about very little, sad to extremity, aimlessly dissolute." His genius is to offer such characteristics as personal failings while conveying them in terms which make us see that they are common human ones - that they belong to ourselves.

Good autobiography fixes the cast of an interesting mind candidly enough to illuminate by analogy our own lives. Kermode has an old-world courtesy, a reticence about sex and a dignity over past battles that make this book almost anachronistic, yet it sums up more than any modern kiss'n'tell memoir, "the private weather, unpredictable as dreams yet recognisable as a climate", of an individual life.



The pioneer of creative conservation: garden designer Gertrude Jelkyll, with spade, is pictured with her family at Munstead Heath in June Brown's book *Lutyens and the Edwardians: an architect and his clients* (Viking £25, 276 pages), which examines Edwin Lutyens' partnership with Jelkyll

From Napoleon to Bosnia

Milton Shulman on the changing face of war

When I interrogated German officers including Field Marshal von Rundstedt, Colonel General Sepp Dietrich in 1945, they united in blaming their defeat primarily on Hitler and secondarily on the superior numbers of Allied planes, ships, tanks, rockets and artillery.

Was it not foolhardy, I asked, to declare war against an industrial giant like the US? They shrugged their shoulders and blamed Nazi leaders such as Goering who had declared that Americans could not make planes, only refrigerators and razor blades.

In his impressive book, *The Pursuit of Victory*, Professor Brian Bond takes us from Napoleon to the Gulf War to demonstrate his thesis that military ability alone may win battles but not wars: "Fundamentally the victory of the North in the American Civil War," he writes "was due not so much to the operational skills of its generals but more to its capacity to mobilise such industrial and manpower superiority as to render the South's operational advantages almost irrelevant."

Although that war has been recognised as the first modern war, Hitler and his generals were obviously ignorant of its lessons since they arrogantly

assumed that their genius alone could overcome the combined resources of men and weapons of the US, Britain and Russia.

Hitler himself had clearly not read enough military history to know that one of Napoleon's fatal flaws was his insistence on one-man rule which denied his commanders authority to transmit orders or control formations beyond his personal reach.

Like Napoleon, he made the

THE PURSUIT OF VICTORY

by Brian Bond

Oxford University Press £17.99, 250 pages

grand mistake of combining the roles of head of state and commander-in-chief of all German forces, which left him in his last days in the bunker acting like a madman trying to manoeuvre formations down to battalion size on both the eastern and western fronts.

For over 200 years military thinkers and strategists have been mesmerised by the concept of decisive victories. A single battle rarely lasting more than three days - Blenheim, Quebec, Austerlitz, Jena, Borodino, Waterloo, Yorktown - could bring the vanquished nation to sue for peace.

Even after the American civil war, no war was expected to last more than a year. They would be short, chivalrous, romantic and glorious. Anti-war writers like Norman Angell and Ivan Bloch made little impression by depicting the ugly realities of battle to a public which, according to Professor Bond, "found the spectacle of war even more attractive than the spectacle of football".

The most influential theorists on the conduct of war were the Swiss Antoine-Henry Jomini, who died in 1869, and the Prussian Carl von Clausewitz, who died in 1831. Although both recognised that victory required the concentration of force against decisive points, they differed on how this was to be achieved.

Jomini thought like a matador, recommending rapid flexible movements that would disrupt an opponent's lines of communication and penetrate his weak positions. Clausewitz was more the raging bull, arguing that direct annihilation of the enemy's forces in a decisive battle and total war as a continuation of national politics was the most effective way to victory.

These theories have inevitably been adjusted to suit modern realities of warfare such as the relative industrial

strengths of opposing powers, the tactics of attrition and pressures of economic deprivation and starvation on the civilian population, mass conscription, aerial bombardment and, ultimately, nuclear weapons.

Bond brilliantly analyses the impact of these technological developments on past theories. He shows how the defence exemplified by the Maginot Line was demolished by the mobility of German tank forces that broke through in 1940.

He also warns us that the nuclear bomb has made the world safe for small conventional wars such as Korea, Vietnam, the Falklands, the Arab-Israeli conflicts, the Iranian and the Gulf wars and the Bosnian civil strife.

"If victory is often costly, defeat is always worse" is how Bond sums up the findings of his splendid book.

"Defeat in war in particular may bring unexpected compensations, such as economic resurrection at the hands of the victors, or a political transition from an authoritarian to a more democratic regime. But more often defeat has entailed physical devastation, military occupation, expulsion of population, punitive peace terms, and, perhaps worst of all, long-lasting humiliation and internal hatreds."

Rereadings/Richard Dawkins Look, up in the sky...

Red Hoyle is a distinguished astrophysicist who has written, in his spare time and his retirement, a large corpus of science fiction. The quality of his novels is varied but his first one, *The Black Cloud*, does what truly great science fiction should do - educates as superbly as it entertains.

Scientific discoveries are often made, more or less simultaneously, by a convergence of more than one method. Hoyle's black cloud is detected by direct observation through an American telescope, and also by indirect mathematical reasoning in Cambridge. The direct observation is made by a homesick Norwegian research student routinely photographing stars on Mount Palomar. He shows his photographs to the elder statesman figure of the story, Geoff Marlowe.

Marlowe hastily summons the brightest physicists and mathematicians in the area to read the astronomical ruses.

There is drama as the brightest of all, the abrupt young mathematician Dave Weichert, strides to the blackboard and in a few lines of calculus (which are actually printed in the book), proves from the photographs that a dark projectile must be heading straight for our solar system. The troubled meeting is sworn to secrecy and Washington is informed.

What lifts the opening of this novel into a superior class is the next chapter, in which the cloud is simultaneously discovered, by a totally different method, in England. The cosmologist Christopher Kingsley has been dragged (against his will) for he is an arch theorist who has not looked down a telescope for years) to a conference of amateur astronomers.

There is humour as Kingsley squirms with impatience through George Green's description of his attic telescope, leading up to his observation that Jupiter and Saturn are in the wrong places in the

sky. Kingsley's agony is deliberately prolonged by the Astronomer Royal who, with similarly excruciating digressions, confirms Green's observations.

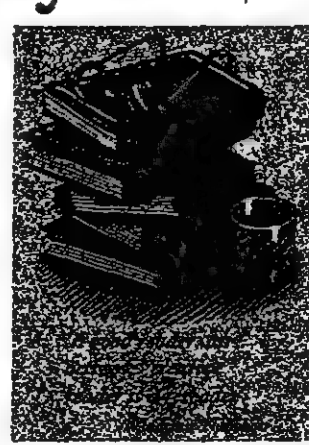
Finally, Kingsley is invited by the chairman to comment. He remarks sarcastically that during the lectures he has had ample time to calculate that if the planetary perturbations reported are correct they must be due to the gravitational influence of some as yet unknown intruder into the solar system.

Finally convinced that the perturbations reports are not hoax, Kingsley calculates the exact location of the unknown body. As usual, Cambridge is overcast, so Kingsley sends a telegram to a colleague in the US inviting him to point a telescope in the appropriate direction. That colleague (of course, since this is fiction) is the pipe-smoking senior scientist, Geoff Marlowe. Already primed by the independent discovery, Marlowe's receipt of Kingsley's telegram is a moment of goose-pimping drama:

"Cablegram for you, Dr Marlowe."

The words on the piece of paper seemed to swell to a gigantic size.

PLEASE UNUSUAL OBJECT EXISTS AT RIGHT ASCENSION FIVE HOURS FORTY-SIX MINUTES, DECLINATION MINUS THIRTY DEGREES TWELVE MINUTES... VELOCITY SEVENTY KILOMETRES PER SECOND DIRECTLY TOWARDS EARTH...



Kingsley convenes an international group of distinguished scientists in an English manor house to study the threat posed by the intruders, a large black cloud of gas which parks itself in orbit around the sun.

The dawning discovery that the cloud is actually alive is another classic lesson in the scientific method. The outrageous hypothesis occurs first to Kingsley and independently - though he is too inarticulate to express it clearly - to Alexandrov, the book's Russian comic relief character: "Bastard in cloud. Said so before."

Weichert, the brilliant young mathematician, ably plays the sceptic's role but inexorably, by deducing predictions and checking them against observation, Kingsley wears him and the others down. The cloud is alive. Karl Popper might have written the script. The rest of the book is a convincing exploration of a genuinely alien intelligence, marred

by an uncouth rant, which the author puts into the mouth of Kingsley, against the foolishness of politicians. Kingsley even uses his influence with the god-like cloud to strike a blow for the mathematical mind against the previously dominant qualitative or literary mind.

This polemical part of the book is irritating, even embarrassing, and the Kingsley character himself is unpleasant. Under other names, many of Hoyle's novels have the same boorish, chip-on-shoulder, near-fascist bent.

But one can forgive much for the sheer scientific intelligence of the exploration of the nature of the cloud. This book certainly made me think more clearly, as a biologist, about individuality and the blurring of parts and wholes in living structures. I believe it was reading *The Black Cloud* that first drove home to me the importance of information theory and the essential interchangeability of coded information through different physical media. Finally, the cloud's own humility in the face of the fundamental laws of the universe has left me with an undying reverence for what is called "The Deep Problems".

Splendidly gripping, *The Black Cloud* is one of science fiction's great classics, its flaws forgivable because its insights are unforgettable.

*Richard Dawkins is the first holder of Oxford University's newly endowed Charles Simonsi Chair in the Public Understanding of Science. His latest book is *Climbing Mount Improbable*.

NEW AUTHORS

PUBLISH YOUR WORK

ALL SUBJECTS CONSIDERED

Fiction, non fiction, Biography,

Religion, Poetry, Children's

AUTHORS WORLD-WIDE WANTED

WRITE OR SEND YOUR MANUSCRIPT TO

MINERVA PRESS

2 OLD BROMPTON RD, LONDON SW8 5JQ

ARTS

A grand new concert hall tunes up

Martin Hoyle explains how Manchester raised cash for culture

The Bridgewater Hall is open for bookings. Its proud glass prow dominates the new canal basin; a cultural liner loaded with the arts for central Manchester. Given the financial uncertainty of the arts at the moment, what prompted the construction of another magnificent new concert hall in a British regional city whose industrial base has changed radically since its 19th-century prime? And how, in these days of stringency, has this £42m, 2,400 seat venue been funded?

John Glaister, chief executive of the City of Manchester development corporation, explains. "The notion of a new concert hall goes back 20 or 30 years. The Free Trade Hall's time has expired in terms of modern use; it's not adequate for a city of three orchestras." (The venerable institution now has to serve the Hallé, the BBC Philharmonic

and the Manchester Camerata.)

The funding problem eased comparisons with the American system. "We don't have the ability to attract contributions from foundations or major companies, to be written off for tax." And the American drive to build congress centres, sports stadia and arts halls as part of urban regeneration can profit from local tax of 2 per cent, "as a hotel tax or whatever. They can vote for it. That's why so many American cities achieve those facilities. We are not Uncle Sam. Capital facilities come from local tax, often very specifically identified."

Over the past ten years these facilities have been proved to be

"economic multipliers" bringing benefit to the community in all sorts of spin-offs. In the case of Manchester's mooted Bridgewater Hall, local urban benefits had to be added to the Treasury. "Parliament had voted money for regeneration," we are reminded. "So how could a concert hall be justified?"

It was, to the tune of £5m from the government's urban programme fund; as part of a thrusting project of central development, including a quarter of a million square feet of pre-let office space. And the concert hall itself, once opened, will have the added attraction (in official eyes) of being run totally independent of public sub-

sidy. The CMDC and Manchester City Council also received EC money for the hall. After some prompting Glaister concedes that the 40 per cent of the cost met by Europe was "an important ingredient".

Another was the formation of Hallogan to manage the new hall. It sounds like a newly discovered gas or possibly a breath sweetener, but Hallogan is a joint venture company formed by the Hallé Concerts Society and Ogden Entertainment Service. The latter, the largest venue management company in the world and an offshoot of the Amer-

ican Ogden Corporation, already runs the 19,000 seat NYMEX Arena that opened in Manchester last July.

Thanks to the local authorities, the Bridgewater Hall opens with no capital debt burden; the professional management guarantees maximum exploitation of merchandising, marketing, catering and the factors that, once considered peripheral, are increasingly seen as central to managing entertainment enterprises; and three resident orchestras (100 concerts a year) ensure a basic occupancy and foundation income. It now has to break even; or, of course, do better...

The product looks like high qual-

ity. Architecturally striking, overlooking the canal, the hall's acoustics were overseen by Arup Acoustics, recently of new Glyndebourne fame. The largest pipe-organ installed in Britain this century has just arrived from Denmark, a reminder that local talent provides the first organist-in-residence, Oldham-born Wayne Marshall. A foundation of giant springs ensures that vibrations from the nearby Metrolink will be absorbed. The auditorium achieves the intimate effect that new halls and theatres aim for, symptomatic of the desire to attract and welcome a new, less formal, audience. As at London's South Bank, the public spaces will

be open seven days a week. The music starts in September: a high-powered five days including a brace of concerts from the Hallé under Kent Nagano that see premieres by young lions George Benjamin and Thomas Adès, and John Adams (his Symphony); Daniel Barenboim and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in Verdi, Elgar and Tchaikovsky; and Yan Pascal Tortelier conducting the BBC Philharmonic's debut in the new hall with Berlioz's Grande Messe de Mortis.

Artistically the future looks exciting. Financially the hall itself, qua venue, represents an experiment whose outcome may prove that public subsidy is less indispensable than we Europeans have been brought up to believe. As long as what goes into it is properly funded, of course...

The Bridgewater Hall opens on September 11. Box office 0161 834 1712.

Great man of design

William Packer reviews the William Morris exhibition

William Morris, the centenary of whose death falls this year, was regarded as one of the great Victorians. His influence has proved remarkably long-lasting, working on us directly even today. And yet he was not a great artist. Self-taught, his painting and drawing show a certain vigour and robust simplicity, but hardly great subtlety and refinement. His poetry, for which he enjoyed his contemporary reputation, is little read today. As an illustrator and designer, good as he was, he was one among many.

In public life, he was active in the early debate around issues of preservation of landscape and ancient buildings, in anticipation of such bodies as the National Trust. As to his politics, in middle life he shifted from liberalism to an ever more radical socialism, first with the Democratic Federation and then with the Socialist League. He set on joint-committees, wrote manifestos, organised lectures and conferences.

But the reworking of the ancient traditions, in which Morris's own business was closely engaged, went on apace. And the longest-for-revolution and final collapse of that capitalism, upon which his own fortune rested, never came. Always with Morris there are failures, contradictions and limitations.

So what then are his virtues and qualities? As so often, context and circumstances are everything. The young Morris was a romantic, steeped in Arthurian myth and the Tennysonian idyll. Up at Oxford in the 1850s, he was the time of the Oxford Movement, Gothic Revival and pre-Raphaelite medievalism - in short, bells and smells and high ideals, with Pugin and young Millais the immediate examples, and Ruskin of *The Stones of Venice* and *Modern Painters* the chief mentor.

Morris's great friend at Oxford was Burne-Jones, like him intended as a clergyman. But minds change and Art claimed them both. For Burne-

Jones, the new vocation of painter proved permanent: Morris's as architect short-lived, though of lasting effect. For it was in the few months he spent in the offices of G.E. Street that Morris first began to think about design. It was as a designer that he was to find his particular gift and, rather more to the point, it was as an enabling designer and creative ring-master that he was to prove remarkable.

He and Burne-Jones took lodgings in London, where their mutual circle of friends within genteel and youthful bohemia soon widened to include the painters Rossetti and Ford Madox Brown, and the architect Philip Webb. Needing furniture, they began to make their own, with their friends' help, solid and simple, medieval in form and painted decoration.

It was through this direct experience of making that Morris first became convinced of the essential bond between art and craft, between the material used, the hand that fashioned it and the object finally achieved. All was open, honest and direct. Truth to materials; probity of labour - it was a moral stance. We may patronise such "Arts and Crafts" innocences from our sophisticated distance, but its subsequent importance in the history of design, not just in England but abroad, is incalculable, from Art Nouveau, the Vienna Secession, Charles Mackintosh and the Bauhaus to Terence Conran and Laura Ashley.

From the ad hoc collaborations of those early days, Morris saw and took his chance. In 1861, he set up the partnership of Morris, Marshall, Faulkner and Co., to be run on supposedly medieval lines producing furniture, wall-hangings, tapestries, stained-glass, tiles and so forth, with designs commissioned from an ever widening circle of artists.

At first it prospered on the booming market for church furnishings, and soon had to move to larger premises in Queen Square. Difficulties fol-



Bells, smells and high ideals design for a stained glass window, 'The Death of Lazarus', under the guiding hand of William Morris

lowed, necessitating expansion into other fields, including interior decoration, notably served by the range of printed fabrics and papers upon which Morris's personal reputation as a designer still rides today. Renewed success brought new problems, and at last he put the firm under his own

name as Morris & Co. In 1881 the whole operation was shifted to a disused factory on the Wandale at Merton Abbey near Wimbledon, and so continued to expand and flourish into the 1890s under Morris's sole and energetic direction. In the 1870s he had taken on the tenancy of Kelmscott Manor on the Upper Thames,

and it was there that he turned his attention to calligraphy, illumination and typography, where perhaps his true gifts lay. His Kelmscott Press, which he set up in London in 1891, published 66 books in all, that he hoped "would have a definite aim of beauty... easy to read and not dazzle the eye." That "definite aim of beauty"

could well stand as Morris's epitaph, not just as the primary artist himself in any particular enterprise, but as the encouraging and enabling sponsor of the work of others, who shared his aim. Here in this dense and fascinating exhibition we may feel that the tapestries and windows of Burne-Jones, or the simple ele-

gancies of the chairs and tables of Philip Webb are the more remarkable and impressive, but in all it is the generously guiding hand of William Morris that we celebrate.

William Morris 1834-1896: Victoria & Albert Museum, South Kensington, until September 1. Sponsored by Pearson.

Pianist to thrill

Evgeny Kissin certainly looks the part. He comes complete with absurdly overgrown mop of hair à la Beethoven, with an aura of second company executives and with omnipresent doting and protective mother and teacher. At the piano he throws himself back, sways from side to side, blinks his eyes, twitches nervously. Hoffing would have had a field day. But he plays like no other pianist. It is not simply a matter of dazzling technique and innate musicianship. He seems to be so close to the music he plays that he almost becomes the composer.

At times, in this recital on Wednesday before a packed and entranced Royal Festival Hall audience, I feared that my ears would not withstand much more of the massive barrage of sound when he was dynamically at full stretch. With that kind of power, the tone of even the most resilient piano becomes coarse. Indeed, one half expected the instrument to crumble into a heap of sawdust and metal filings under the strain.

But Kissin can play at all extremes. His touch remains infinitely flexible and subtle; he commands as wide a range of dynamics as any other pianist, and can leave from the instrument the subtlest colours. The second of the recital was loudly opined as the interval that Kissin had failed to do justice to Schumann's Impassioned Fantasia in C, which with the massive Bach-Buonini Chaconne in D minor constituted the recital's first half, was talking nonsense.

It was a very Russian, very dramatic performance, hardly understated, but it was also a coherent one, with Kissin shaping line and delineating contrast of idea and mood as though he were teaching a class of non-initiates about structure. And with what poetic poise he gave that gorgeously expansive last movement; the storm, the energy of the foregoing music now dissipated to leave only something very beautiful to beguile ear, heart and mind in equal measure. Even *moment* was touched with deep, moving consideration.

After the interval Kissin turned to Beethoven's C sharp minor Piano Sonata, Op 7/No 2, the first movement, a deep, brooding meditation rather than the blurred wash of impressionistic colours that gained the piece its irrelevant title of "Moonlight". Wholly logical, given such a view of the work - and it was surely the right one for the finale to unleash its fury, and then came four of Liszt's Transcendental Studies. I would happily wager that the fleet "Feux follets" has probably never been played as fast and with such meticulous control of tone as well as note as it was here, not even by Liszt himself, meanwhile "Harmonies du soir" radiated a wondrous inner calm, and "Wilde Jagd" had a furious, explosive energy that typified the restless, Romantic spirit of this quite extraordinary, thrilling artist.

Stephen Pettitt

Television/Christopher Dunkley

Change - at a frightening rate

The original idea was to review *Postcards From The Country* and *The End Of The Western World* in the same article simply because they both happened to be new factual series starting on BBC2 this week, the first on Wednesday and the second tomorrow.

Wednesday's eight part series describes itself as being "about people's living memories of the British countryside" while we are told that in Sunday's two-part series "Martin Jacques goes in search of the secrets of the success of the tiger economies of Asia". Not much in common there, you might think.

Sure enough, *Postcards From The Country* is close to home, lyrical, often nostalgic, and full of wonderfully evocative black and white archive film. These

programmes carry you straight back to the world of the Ealing comedies, the Home Service, and Humphrey Jennings' *Listen To Britain*. The presenter, Richard Mabey, is known for his programmes about wildlife, so it was no surprise to find that the opening episode on Kent contained details about bullfinches and badgers, nor that next week's on the Riverlands has a fair amount to say about seabirds and others. On the other hand, *The End Of The Western World* is decidedly exotic. Presenter Martin

Jacques, former editor of "Marsden Today", visits Malaysia, Taiwan and China in the first programme and talks a lot about politics on the Pacific rim, and about whether the tiger economies will overtake the west very soon or merely soon.

Not only are the locations half a world away from the orchards of Kent, the styles of the two series are also miles apart. While Mike Birkhead and David Rolfe, producers of *Postcards*, keep their presenter off screen altogether, Mike Smith, producer of the Pacific

rim series, encourages Jacques to give us the full works. He waves his hands at the camera while barking out didactic sentences (shades of Magnus Pyke and David Bellamy), dons jogging gear for a run round the new stadium being constructed in Kuala Lumpur (early *That's Life*), and then, as though addressing dim infants, announces "Time for a sit down" (*Play School*). However, we also see him in the middle of a political demonstration, and explaining, by way of the precise workings of a Taiwanese computer factory,

exactly why the tiger economies are still not quite in the premier league.

So, two series of utter contrasts? In some ways yes, and yet the concern at the centre of both is virtually identical: people coming to terms with radical change, social and economic. *Postcards* tells of the days when Kent was the orchard of England, cockneys went hopping, straw was stoked by hand (you don't have to be awfully old to have done that in earnest) and children caught newts in the village pond on their way to school. There are dangers of preciousness and sentimentality here, but Birkhead and Rolfe are wide awake to that. They bring out the idyllic side of the hop-picking jamboree but also the consistent bad feeling between Londoners and villagers.

Most impressive of all, they encourage Derek Sheffield to tell of how, as a boy, he had watched a lone Spitfire doing a victory roll over the summer fields of Kent and, from that moment on, had dreamed of doing it himself. Of how, as a man, he had finally flown over the same area in a small single-engine plane, had indeed done a victory roll, and - upside down - had looked up

at his village and realised that everyone he had ever loved there had gone, and even his own house had disappeared. He has never flown over the area again. There is sentiment here, certainly, but also a hard-edged realism which is less common in series of this sort. Next week's account of life in the Shetlands, which again cuts with great ease between monochrome archive and full colour video, includes a starkly factual account of how the Scottish herring drifters (so lovingly documented in Grierson's famous 1929 documentary, *Drifters*, clips of which are, I suspect, included in this programme) were driven off the face of the ocean in one season by the Scandinavian purse netters.

You could see that as a paradigm for the process now being documented by Jacques. Perhaps the most telling aspects of his evidence so far

are the way that Malaysia is now having to import cheap immigrant labour from Indonesia and Bangladesh when, so recently, cheap labour was its own chief resource, and the way that Taiwan, not long ago the world's largest manufacturer of shoes, now has to shift its production base for such simple items to the newer Asian tigers such as mainland China in order to keep labour costs down. What emerges from these two series is not so much that change comes to all of us, but that the rate of change keeps on accelerating. How much faster can it go before it begins to feel completely inhuman?

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPICE

MAIRE ST. LONDON ES 45A (Charity Ref. No. 23122)

Dear Anonymous Friends,
You do not wish your gifts to be spoiled by human words of thanks. Their value gleams in the untold relief you silently provide.

We have honoured your trust, and always will.

Stair Superior.

ART GALLERIES

ROYAL SOCIETY OF PORTRAIT PAINTERS
Annual Exhibition 9-27 May, Daily 10-6. Mail Galleries, The Mall (No. Admiralty Arch) London SW1.

Cotswolds Art Fair

The Frimley, Nr Cheltenham, Glos. off the A40 between Northleach & Andoversford.

May 17 - 19

50 leading Galleries, Dealers & Artists offer for sale works from Old Masters to Contemporary

Friday/Saturday 11am - 6pm
Sunday 11am - 5pm. Adm. £2

Preview Reception: Thurs 16th, 4-9pm. £5 and wine

For more info

01454 482514

BREATHTAKING... a work of genius

Anastasia

A MAJOR WORK OF ART IS RETURNED TO US

THE ROYAL BALLET

10-11 PM
at 7.30pm
at 10.15pm
at 12.30pm
at 7.30pm

01454 482514

ARTS

Carmen meets Eeyore

Clement Crisp reviews Antonio Gades at Sadler's Wells

I am not persuaded that, by using a few classic film snippets from Bizet's opera, Antonio Gades is offering his audience anything much to do with *Carmen*.

Gades is returned to Sadler's Wells with his company after two decades, in a version of the 1984 film he made with Carlos Saura which set Mérimée's drama within the context of a flamenco troupe. The film drove me into convulsions of yawns – unrelenting passion and proudly arched bodies are not my ideal companions for any length of time – and this staging, for all its tricks, is a monotonous affair.

Its merits are in the changes of pace which find Gades' view of the tale (*Carmen* with a husband and the predatory sexuality of a widow spider) whisking through rehearsals by a flamenco company. Austerity of image – chairs and mirrored panels as setting – is in clever contrast with the unbridled emotions of the tale.

But improbability lies at the heart of the affair. The contradictions between Bizet (in a flashy recording) and flamenco yowling and guitar sonorities; the lack of credible characterisation – save of *Carmen* as a

bold-eyed and bolder-mannered senorita – give the piece an arbitrary, unreasoned air.

Carmen's death, albeit it could not come quickly enough for me, is precipitate, and feebly plotted. A cod bullfight is amusing and much enlivened by a sturdy chap in a green pullover and trailing skirt, but makes little point.

The central problem lies in the central performances. Stella Arauzo's *Carmen* is coarse-grained (not that one expects a portrait drawn by Miss Austen) and somehow lacking in sexual charm to lighten her sultry manners.

Antonio Gades' Don José is even more of a difficulty. No longer a young buck – Gades will be 60 this year – his José has the Eeyore look of a man who has sunk his life savings into a scheme to farm oysters in Lake Geneva, and a distinctly careful way with dancing.

The other chaps – *Carmen*'s husband; the torero – are, shall we say, quite mature figures. It is all reminiscent of the old *Vie Parisienne* joke: "Pass me my teeth, dear, I want to bite you".

The Gades ensemble stamp, sing, flam themselves with a will. The audience seemed to love every moment of it.

Stella Arauzo and Antonio Gades as *Carmen* and Don José: a distinctly careful way of dancing

Off the Wall/Antony Thornecroft

Why lottery sums don't match

Well, can business deliver? When arts companies prepared their bids for lottery cash they earmarked their corporate friends to provide a substantial chunk of the partnership funding required by the Arts Council. It seems that they were over-optimistic. Colin Tweedy has been proved right.

Tweedy, the chief executive of the Association of Business Sponsorship of the Arts, was the Jeremiah who predicted that the corporate sector was unwilling to be the muck cow of the arts. He was, of course, defending his patch: any money given by companies towards lottery-funded capital arts projects might well be money switched from traditional sponsorship of arts events.

His warnings have so unsettled the Arts Council that it reviewed the situation. It looked in detail at the 124 arts projects asking for over £100,000 from the lottery (which means they have to put up 25 per cent through their own efforts) and discovered that of the collective £60m these applicants had hoped to receive from the corporate sector only 34 per cent has so far been confirmed. There is a shortfall of around £45m, which is exactly half the £90m

still needed by arts companies to meet lottery commitments.

In general the arts world has done remarkably well. The 124 companies have to raise £210m to satisfy the Arts Council, and so far have £180m in the bag (mainly from individuals who have given almost £70m), with another £24m firmly promised, leaving the £90m still to be gathered in. The majority of this relates to just 18 projects, of which the most notable are in London – Sadler's Wells, the Royal Court Theatre and Covent Garden.

But oddly enough London is not the crisis area. London applicants have already secured 80 per cent funding. It is arts companies in the other major cities which are having the biggest problems, with less than half their partnership targets secured. It is just that the sums sought in London are greater, although it seems that the Arts Council has advised the two most worried applicants, Sadler's Wells and the Royal Court, to take their time over fund-raising appeals.

One thing seems certain: the

Arts Council is not prepared to reduce the 25 per cent contribution it requires from big applicants. It would cause chaos moving the goal posts prematurely. Instead an effort will be made to persuade businesses to contribute more. One possibility is that companies, in return for tax incentives, give their favourite arts organisations shares which can be used as collateral in lottery bids.

It is time for another spate of "West End in crisis" stories, interwoven with predictions that the audience for classical music concerts is also dying of boredom. Are our theatres and concert halls in deep trouble? The short answer is no. The last two weeks have probably been disappointing for many West End producers, but this is always the worst time of year, with extra daylight drawing people out of doors and the bulk of foreign tourists, who make up a third of the audience, yet to arrive.

The actual facts, the latest

box office figures, show the West End to be remarkably healthy. In 1995 audiences rose 7 per cent to a record 11.9m. For the first quarter of 1996 figures to be released next week will reveal a 4 per cent drop on 1995, but this is accounted for by the Canary Wharf bomb in February, which immediately knocked 7 per cent off box office sales.

By March confidence had returned and attendances during the month were actually up 1 per cent on 1995. Which ever way you squeeze it the West End has proved remarkably resilient.

For classical music the picture is not quite so rosy. For two decades after 1970 attendances at the main venues, London's South Bank Centre, with 4,500 seats a night to fill over three halls, fell remorselessly, from 80 per cent to 60 per cent. The decline has been

stanching by popularising the repertoire, and last season the tide turned, with attendances in 1994-95 rising to 63 per cent.

The higher level is being maintained this year, but only by reducing further the number of classical concerts at the Festival Hall by around 10 per cent, replacing them with pop, jazz and Third World music. The house orchestra of the South Bank, the London Philharmonic, now plays 25 per cent fewer concerts than four years ago but its audiences this season, which average around 70 per cent, are still 2 per cent lower.

The audience for the conventional classical concert has dropped dramatically. Now it will only turn out for an event – an interesting programme, or a star conductor or soloist, preferably both. The London Symphony Orchestra has shown what can be done by consistently attracting average audiences of 88 per cent as the house orchestra of the Barbican, but it is much more generously funded than the other London symphony orchestras. And when the LSO is not playing, the Barbican suffers from the general unwillingness of concert goers to venture out at night.

Unlike the US, the UK keeps fairly quiet about the size of

the audience for arts events. The Arts Council does collect figures from the companies it subsidises but hardly goes out of its way to publicise the results. Perhaps it feels that, after 50 years in the job, it should be able to announce constantly rising attendances and is embarrassed by the fact that there is still plenty of spare capacity.

The latest statistics, which cover the 1994-95 season, hardly suggest that the arts are booming, but they do not shout disaster either. Dance performances around the country, for example, have attracted audiences of 71 per cent capacity for each of the last three years. Opera moved up sharply from 70 per cent in 1993-94 to 78 per cent last season, but there were fewer performances.

Drama in the regional theatres is rather lacklustre, bumping along at just under 60 per cent of capacity for three years, while orchestral concerts are not much more popular, with 64 per cent capacity, and that includes the four London orchestras, as well as the six main regional bands. Here again perhaps the surprise is that, with CDs so readily available, there is still a sizeable audience for such a 19th-century art form as the symphony.

of a splendidly riveting Radio 4 play last Saturday. Mike Harris' *The Brahmin and the Lady* ostensibly charted the relationship between Nehru and Edwina Mountbatten at the time of the partition of India.

In fact, the play's only fault – but a good one – was that the two figures were submerged in the panorama of those momentous times. There were, of course, traps galore: after the use of Noel Coward's "Poor Little Rich Girl" one awaited cartoon royalty or blimpish Brits, but everyone was allowed their dignity while avoiding both obsequious whitewash or pug-nacious caricature. It was the best sort of historical drama, or novel, come to that – depicting the impact of great events on the lives of those caught up in them.

Julian Wadham was a sympathetic Dickie Mountbatten. Sam Dastor convinced as Nehru, that mixture of the pragmatic and the ruthless. Only Celia Imrie's Edwina sounded as if she had spent too long in sitcom. But it was an extraordinarily compelling experience (director David Hunter).

Britishness was the implicit subject

Record Review/Richard Fairman

Love and other matters

For years it seemed that Britten's own recording of *Peter Grimes* would stay unchallenged. So long as the title role was identified with Peter Pears, other tenors tended to regard it as a no-go area and it has taken the rise of a new generation of singers to show how many sides to the part there really are – a 20th-century tenor role to stand alongside Monteverdi's Orfeo or Verdi's Otello.

The new Chandos set has Philip Langridge, who is as different from Pears as he is from Jon Vickers and Anthony Rolfe-Johnson, the other tenors who have committed the role to disc. So often new recordings these days seem superfluous, but not this one. Langridge's *Peter Grimes* is so compelling that he demanded to be recorded in his own right. His strength is to make every utterance sound essential to the drama, even where Britten's vocal writing is at its most contrived. It is as though one is listening to an actor working through the medium of song – a *Grimes* of the most searing theatrical intensity.

British: *Peter Grimes*. City of London Sinfonia/Hickox. Chandos CHAN 9447/8 (2 discs). Strauss: *Elektra*. Staatskapelle Berlin/Barenboim. Teldec 4509-89175-2 (2 discs) Bryn Terfel. Metropolitan Opera Orch/Levine. DG 445 886-2.

Angela Gheorghiu. Orchestra of the Teatro Regio, Turin/Mauro. Decca 452 417-2. Roberto Alagna and Angela Gheorghiu. Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden/Armstrong. EMI CDC5 56117-2.

It is not meant as a back-handed compliment if I say that every time he enters a scene, this recording comes alive. The rest of the cast is always more than acceptable and in Alan Ople's *Elektra* he carves a distinct personality from his role. Janice Watson's Ellen Orlowa sings beautifully in the Embroidery Aria, but sounds too youthfully silvery and lightweight to provide the moral bulwark for *Grimes*. This is a community where life is hard and it takes characters like Matthew Best's tough Hobson and Roderick Williams's cleanly-sung Ned Keene to make a mark.

There is a very modern feel to Langridge's unvarnished realism and it would have been nice if that had been matched by a conductor with a modern style (as David Atherton did at the London Coliseum). Instead, Richard Hickox leads a performance which looks back to the English choral tradition. The sound is rich and ripe; the music moves with a confident lack of haste. All round there is a heartiness that seems at odds with Britten's quick and nervous sensitivity, though Hickox can certainly unleash some power when it is needed.

The storm interlude blows in with howling winds and roaring thunder, as never before. In some respects the atmosphere of Hickox's Britten is similar to that of Daniel Barenboim's Strauss. The new Teldec set of *Elektra* is just as broadly paced and rich in sound. The climaxes similarly reach a pitch of feverish intensity (the high point of the recognition scene is an almost undisciplined riot of noise). But Barenboim's *Elektra* is a live recording and has a stronger feeling of theatrical drive.

It is quite easy to get caught up in this performance, although I fear that it will not wear well on repeated listening. At the Deutsche Staatsoper's recent visit to Paris, Barenboim was greeted with a few boos at the end of *Elektra* for drowning the singers. Judicious placing of the microphones means that they are always in the picture here, but what we get is a close-up view

of how the singers were struggling against the odds in the theatre. Deborah Polaski's *Elektra* is rather unrelentingly geared towards power, which is a shame, as her softer singing works well. Alessandra Marc's Chrysothemis barely utters one intelligible word. Waltraud Meier as Klytemnestra has an easier time against the orchestra and is the only one to impose a distinct personality on the set.

Bryn Terfel naturally has no trouble making himself heard on his first solo opera recital disc. A big voice and a big personality: Terfel is equal to the challenge of any of the great operatic characters he might aspire to play. The singer says that each of the arias here represents a role he hopes to assume in the future, though he is surely too heavy for Rossini's witty *La Cenerentola* and as yet too young for Verdi's Falstaff. But how vividly they all come to life. Gounod's *Méphistophélès* flashes sparks of devilish charm and Sorodín's Prince Igor sends shivers of patriotic fervour down one's back. The two Wagner solos, including a grandly sung Flying Dutchman, promise great things to come.

The debut recital disc by Angela Gheorghiu is welcome for different reasons. Gheorghiu is not one of those rare singers who step into the public spotlight as fully-formed and inspirational artists, like Terfel. She is unlikely to tell us anything we did not know already about characters like Puccini's Mimi or Gounod's Marguerite, both included on this disc. But there is a quiet



Angela Gheorghiu: adorable love duets with Roberto Alagna

sensibility in the voice that makes the emotions seem to be felt afresh. Gheorghiu is an intimate performer. Whether she is singing Bellini's Juliet or Massenet's Salomé, inviting her into the living-room is like welcoming a close friend.

Since her Covent Garden *Traviata* she and Roberto Alagna have been the darlings of the media. Their first ever duet recital disc together should be worth a few more pages in the colour supplements. In the French and Italian repertoire they make ideal young lovers – as Massenet's *Manon* and Des Grieux or Gounod's *Marguerite* and Faust (though not, I think, Berlioz's *Les Troyens*, for which Gheorghiu is too light to make a suitably regal Dido). The disc opens with the adorable *Cherry Duet* from Mascagni's *L'Amico Fritz*, pure charm as long as one does not remember the young Freni and Pavarotti in the same piece. It ends with *La Bohème*, the first-act duet full of character. That is the opera in which they have been singing at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. They were also married there two weeks ago. EMI has just managed to get this wedding gift wrapped in time.

Radio/Martin Hoyle

A lack of cultural identity

I can remember when Britain was regarded as workshy, the strike centre of the labouring world, the everything-stops-for-a-cuppy country; looked at positively, the average Briton earned privacy and leisure to mope a packet like the Germans or Americans. Interpreted less flatteringly, the Englishman was bone idle.

Yet now, would you believe, the accepted British sickness is workaholicism. This emerged from Sunday's *A View from Abroad* (Radio 4). The Spanish writer Pedro Sorela, in a programme subtitled "Britain's Lost Paradise", took his cue from a gratifyingly (and shamefully) detailed knowledge of our literature to track down the Britain of his imagination. Sorry, sir, we're fresh out of it.

Starting at Bristol Docks and the tavern that inspired Stevenson to write *Treasure Island*, Sorela touchingly sought the gleam of real Englishness, but someone had been there first. Not even sartorial elegance is left.

Where, he wondered, was the wool, the tweed, the shoes for men that,

exported to respectful foreigners, last for 20 years or so? He noted the new ugliness; the cheapness, the trainers and sports clothes worn in non-sporting situations (one of the frowzier aspects of new Britain).

He also commented on the ugly buildings, not merely unprepossessing in themselves but blighting pretty surroundings. In his gentle way he was damning our planners and architects as well as our individual blindness to style. This led naturally to the current acceptance of money as the gauge of success. And still nobody had stumbled on the obvious fact: that Britain has effectively been an American colony, culturally speaking, since the great grocer's daughter was our high priestess of materialism.

Eventually someone mentioned America, but only as a comparison,

not as attribution – evidently we have learnt our lessons so well that our new materialism is assimilated, by now *ex nihilo*. And American parallels can be drawn with our new love of imposing rules – firing people for smoking, marvelling the *Sunday* – and our health fads, our money-grubbing. In latterday Britain, as in earlier America, there are no absolutes. We are searching for a code of right and wrong, and find it in trivia, for lack of a cohesive cultural identity.

Kate McCall produced a fascinating programme, wistful and disturbing. Its only weak link was the unintentional comedy of Jonathan Meades, a restaurant critic. He maintains that the loutish English are reverting to violent type. On the other hand they are suburban at heart. They are afraid

of colour. They want their suburbs to be pretty. He might add that they produce journalists who solemnly contradict themselves with every other sentence.

One thought of the wicked theory mooted in *Mediumwave* that the journalists were not up in time for the statisticians' press conference but rose for the ministers' gloss on the figures at a more civilised hour. The upshot was that statistics can prove anything you want.

But if our Fourth Estate came out of it without much integrity, there were consolations for identifiable bits of our body cultural that were forever England. The American cellist Ralph Kirshbaum called Radio 3 the finest classical broadcasting service in the world. Only the presentation needs fixing. Britishness was the implicit subject

NEW TICKETS RELEASED

Saturday 6th JULY '96, 7.30 PM

LONDON

WEMBLEY STADIUM

TELEPHONE: 0181-900 1234 OR 0171-344 44 44

JAL Japan Airlines

CARRERAS DOMINGO PAVAROTTI WITH LEVINE

THE TENORS

IN CONCERT 1996/97

ANOTHER TIBOR RUDAS PRODUCTION

SPECIAL VIP OFFER

EXCLUSIVE VIP SEATS AND DINNER WITH THE COMPANY OF THE THREE TENORS

PHONE 0181-795 2222

Tickets at £110 available on 0171 344 4444

FROM THE HEIGHTS OF LUXURY.

NEW SHOW APARTMENTS
PRICES FROM £385,000

TO THE BEST VIEWS IN LONDON!

VIEWING 7 DAYS A WEEK
TEL: 0171 793 1313
FAX: 0171 793 1414

View from Apartment 14

Peninsula Heights
93 ALBERT EMBANKMENT

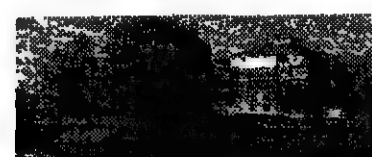
REGALIAN DEVELOPMENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH C&H DINGEMAN



Richmond Bridge offers an unrivalled opportunity to live in a safe, exclusive development with electronic security systems and underground parking where one would never have to worry whether at home or abroad. With friendly 24 hour security guards always on hand what could be better?

Secure LIFE

Richmond Bridge is an exclusive development comprising 1, 2 and 3 bedroom apartments, townhouses with landscaped garden views and penthouses with commanding views over the River Thames. Landscaped private gardens, underground parking, 10 year NHBC



guarantee, 24 hour security and resident porter.

Apartments and townhouses now available

One bedroom apartments from	£115,000
Two bedroom apartments from	£204,750
Three bedroom apartments from	£280,000
Penthouses apartments from	£365,000
Three bedroom townhouses from	£365,000

The show townhouse and two show apartments are available to view Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 11am-5pm and Sun 12 noon-5pm

Call 0171 744 0113 for more details.

RICHMOND BRIDGE
LONDON'S PREMIER RIVERSIDE DEVELOPMENT

SAVILLS
INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

PERTSHIRE - 18,600 acres Blair Atholl
Blair Atholl 16 km (10 miles), Edinburgh Airport 135 km (84 miles), Inverness Airport 123 km (77 miles).
One of Scotland's finest stag forests with a remarkably productive grouse moor. Deer Forest averaging 149 stags. Grouse Moor averaging 523 brace.
Modern Lodge with 3 reception rooms, 6 bedrooms and 6 bathrooms. Two Keeper's Cottages, 3 further estate dwellings requiring refurbishment. Roe stalking. Pheasant shooting. Trout fishing.
7,500 ha (18,600 acres) with vacant possession
Savills, Edinburgh: 0131 226 6961 Fax: 0131 225 6824
Contact: Guy Galbraith

WEST SUSSEX, Nr. Horsham
Horsham 5 km (3 miles), Central London 65 km (40 miles)
A residential, agricultural and sporting estate within 40 miles of Central London.
7 bedroom house in fine setting with indoor swimming pool, lake and mature gardens. 2 farmhouses, 2 farm cottages. Very extensive arable and livestock farm buildings. Surrounded by arable, grass and sporting woodland.
About 176 ha (436 acres)
Savills, London: 0171 499 8644 Contact: Berrie Ross

NORFOLK, Colney
Norwich City Centre 4.8 km (3 miles)
A Grade II 18th century house in need of updating and refurbishment set in woodland and parkland. 5 reception rooms, orangery, 5 bedrooms, billiard room. Extensive range of traditional outbuildings. Redevelopment opportunities for residential, leisure, educational, health care and commercial uses.
About 33.6 ha (83 acres) Region of £500,000
Savills, Norwich: 01693 612211

DISNEY
Cooldrinagh, Brighton Road, Foxrock, Dublin 18
Auction Thursday 30th May On circa 1 acre

The most noteworthy house in Foxrock, with place of Samuel Beckett, as well as being of significant architectural and historic interest, this villa style residence is impeccably maintained and presented to the highest standard. Cooldrinagh stands on a 1 acre of private garden with a hard tennis court and heated swimming pool. The easily managed accommodation includes reception hall, cloakroom, dining room, living room, family room, study, large modern kitchen, 4 beds (master en suite, 2 with adjoining study area), family bathroom, utility. Sited on a pool/patio area with summer chairs and changing room.

Linsey Chartered Surveyors 06 323 1 04 15 233

BIDWELLS
CHARTERED SURVEYORS

CAMBRIDGESHIRE
Huntingdon 10 miles (rail to Kings Cross 65 mins) - Peterborough 19 miles - Cambridge 25 miles
1,075.10 acres (435.141 hectares)
Substantial productive arable farm with residential and amenity value
7 bedroom farmhouse, three farm cottages. Range of traditional and modern farm buildings including over 2,000 tonnes of grain storage. Woodlands and lake.
For Sale by Formal Tender as a Whole or in Four Lots
Closing date 1st July, 1996
01223 841841
TRUMPINGTON ROAD - CAMBRIDGE - CB2 2LD
BURY ST EDMUNDS - CAMBRIDGE - IPSWICH - NORTHAMPTON - NORWICH - LONDON - PERTH

Humberts Leisure
Newmarket about 24 miles, Thetford about 7 miles

Retirement sale
Profitable leisure enterprise set around magnificent listed mansion

- Mansion and stable block about £7,500 sq ft (5,840 sq m)
- Lifestyle purchase/family home with income
- Multi-use or development break-up, subject to planning
- About 27 acres of fine grounds

25 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9FE
Tel: 0171-625 6700 Fax: 0171-409 0475
Ref: NECT/PO/MD/11

GEORGE WHITE
SLEIGHTHOLME FARM
Glimsby, Dover, County Durham
206 ACRES
An excellent stock raising farm just outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park in an outstanding location.
Superb five bedroomed farmhouse with outstanding views over the park with planning consent for conversion.
About 200 acres. Productive meadow and pasture land. For sale as a whole or in up to 7 lots by Public Auction on 25th June 1996
01677 425301

Period Country House
Sited in 18 acres of parkland. Dating from Queen Anne period with stable yard, post & rail paddocks and gardens views over lake. Two land drives. Extra land available.
4 Reception, 6 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, staff cottage, grounds etc.
Rear view, Shetford open drive 4 miles. Private A1660 75 miles.
No view to river, but lovely looking to river. Offers invited in the region of £295,000 Private Sale.
Tel: 01789 848228.

SAVILLS
EAST SUSSEX

IMPORTANT EQUESTRIAN CENTRE
Profitable Residential and Leisure Operation
(Unit 6 Ref. 5) 1000sq. ft. 13 Bed. House and 60 Cover Restaurant with Conference Facilities. Reception Centre and Sundry. Venue for Equestrian and Horse Trials. Indoor and Outdoor Schools. Show Jumping Arena. Cross Country Course. 20 Level Boxes.
About 22.2 Acres
01753 45551
Contact: Angela Hancock

WALES
NATIONAL TRUST ESTATE
Unique opportunity, 70 year lease. Cottage and restored cruck barn in approx. 15 acres of the breathtaking Upper Conl Valley. No other neighbours, glorious panoramic, peaceful, open back. Fine country. Old first Age, all wood work. Really and cheaply maintained.
£29,500 Tel: 01538 659596

CONNAUGHT SQUARE, HYDE PARK, W2
A beautifully presented Grade II Listed period house on the west side of this attractive and prestigious garden square. Principal bedroom with Large Dressing Room and Bathrooms. 4 Reception Rooms, 2 Reception Kitchens. First Floor Dressing Room, Study Room, Kitchen, Breakfast Room, Study Room, 2 Closets, Utility Room, Wine Cellar, West Facing Rear Terrace, Access to Private Square Gardens.
LEASE 15 YEARS £1,150,000
NOTICE TO ENFRANCHISE ACCEPTED
- FREEHOLD AVAILABLE -
Tel: 0171 493 0576 Fax: 0171 493 2720

WEST SUFFOLK
Bury St. Edmunds 5 miles Newmarket 12 miles London 55 miles
By direction of the Engenie Kelleway Settlement
THE NEWHALL FARM ESTATE
LAWSHALL
BURY ST. EDMUNDS

An exceptional residential and sporting agricultural property extending to approximately **703.59 acres**
Mainly Grade II land
637.89 acres (258.15 ha.) eligible for Arable Area Payments
Farmhouse, 2 Cottages, Planning Permission for Principal Farmhouse, Modern Grain Store and Planning Consent for 2,500 tonnes grain Store
High Yielding Productive Arable Land in large blocks with woodland and sporting potential
FOR SALE WITH VACANT POSSESSION (Subject to cottage occupancy)
AS A WHOLE OR IN 7 LOTS
Particulars from the Agents

Lacy Scott
CHARTERED SURVEYORS
10 RISBYGATE STREET, BURY ST EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK IP33 3AA
TEL: (01284) 763531 FAX: (01284) 704713

BUYING FOR INVESTMENT OR OCCUPATION?
We will find the best opportunities for you.
MALCOLM WALTON
INTERNATIONAL 0171 408 2444

LONDON RENTALS

FERADA ASSOCIATES LIMITED
Prestige Properties in Prime Places
Comprehensive Services for Individual and Corporate Requirements for Furnished/Unfurnished Rentals.
Tel: 0171 495 7822 Fax: 0171 495 3415

KNIGHTSBRIDGE
DOUBLE GARAGE
KNIGHTSBRIDGE BY HARRISON.
Double garage to 14.
21ft wide 15ft deep.
Electric remote door £2000 p.a.
(all incl) may vary.
Tel: 0171 495 8121 Mobile 0978 227 333

INVERFORTH CLOSE
Hampstead, London
3 & 4 BEDROOM HOUSES
WITHIN A RURAL COURTYARD SETTING

- Private Parking & Gardens
- NHBC Warranty • Superb Heath Views
- Beautifully Appointed Interiors
- High Level of Security
- Easy Access to Central London
- From £625,000 - £1.25m

Full details & brochure from Joint Selling Agents
GOLOSCHMIDT **SAVILLS**
0171 435 4404 0171 431 4844

INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY
TAYLOR WOODROW GIBRALTAR Limited
Apartments & Penthouses from £145K.
Major Tenants: Deutsche Bank, HSBC, etc.
01752 850055 Gb 050 405050
MENORCA. Free 48 page Property Guide containing a large selection of quality properties. Contact Bonini Somo A.P.L.C. Tel: 01274 831818

01752 831818

PROPERTY

Buying a beautiful garden

Gerald Cadogan looks at homes which might well carry off prizes for their plants, trees and outdoor vistas

Chelsea flower show opens in 10 days. The question is, will the summer plants be ready in time for what is really a late-spring show? It has been tricky this year in England as the cold weather has held plants back. I expect, however, that all will be well - because it always is. Something would be truly wrong if gardeners did not grumble about the weather.

For gardeners thinking of moving house, small changes in the weather matter less than where the garden is and what soil it has, acid or alkaline. These affect what they can grow in a new garden, as does the long term regional weather. A move to warm, wet Cornwall suggests fuchsias and eschscholias and the chance of superb camellias, while azaleas love the Wealden clay of Sussex.

If you are in doubt about what grows well in an area, visit local gardens listed in the annual Yellow Book (the guide to 3,500 gardens open under the National Gardens Scheme) or its Scottish counterpart, and it will be obvious.

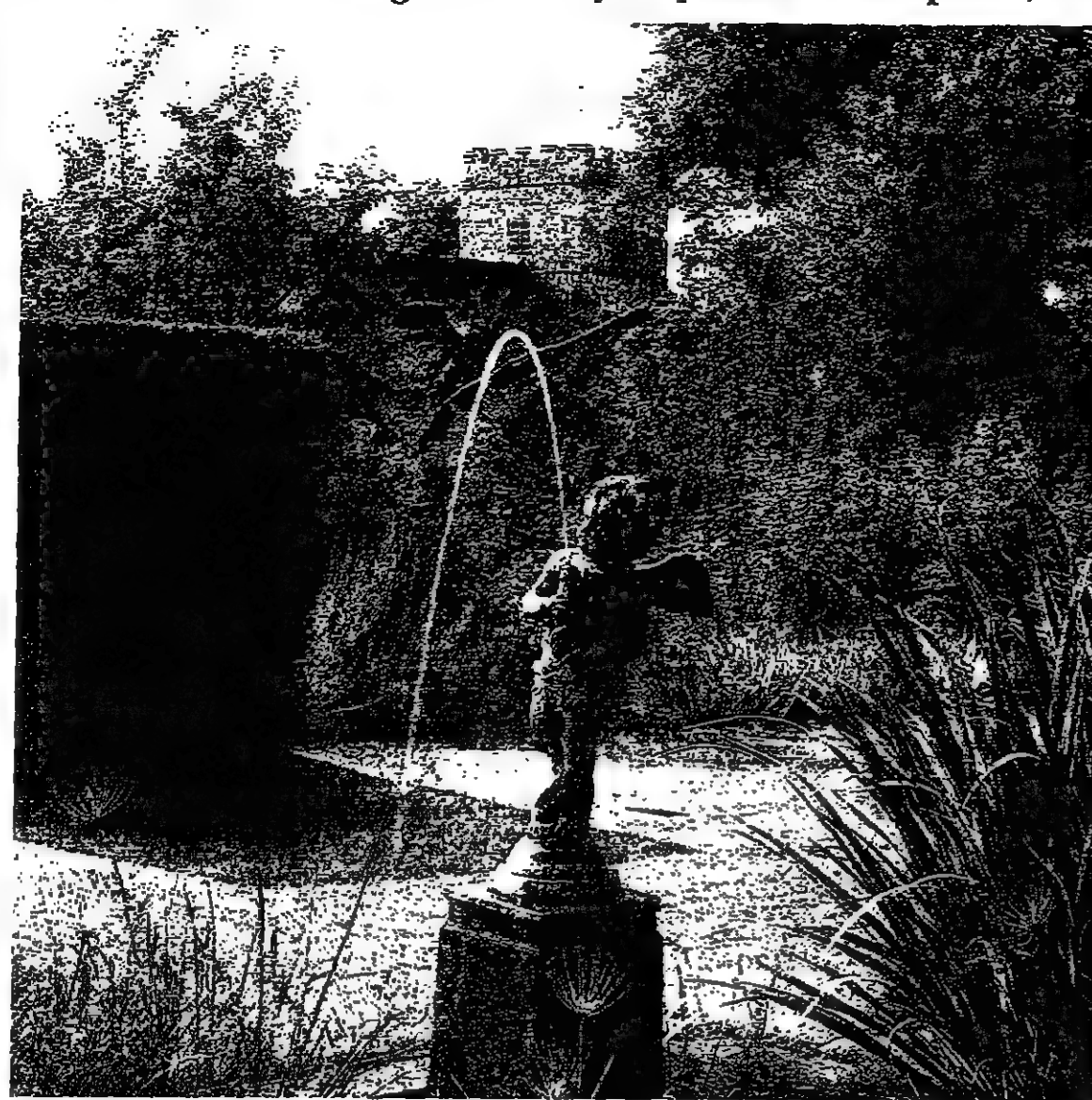
But gardeners must first decide whether to put more emphasis on the house or the garden. If it is the garden, do they want to create one? Or are they happy to take over an existing garden?

If they have the energy to make a garden from scratch, the answer might be a run-down garden that needs attacking with chainsaw and loppers, or a house with a vacant paddock.

To find such opportunities, buyers must do their own hunting - or hire a buying agent to look on their behalf. Estate agents will not highlight garden potential in their brochures because it is much too nebulous. But they are happy to extol existing gardens that look good in colour photographs.

If the great Gertrude Jekyll (1843-1933) planned the garden, that adds several thousand pounds to the price. The gospel of this late Victorian and Edwardian garden designer was naturalism. By now it is seen as the core tradition of British garden design, although it was a reaction against the Victorians' carpet planting of flowerbeds. Add a house by Sir Edwin Lutyens (1869-1944) - or his collaborating with her on the garden - and the price will be thousands more.

A Jekyll/Lutyens masterpiece comes on the market this week. Deane Garden at Sonning in Berkshire, was built in 1901 for Edward Hutton,



Deane Garden in the Thames-side village of Sonning, Berkshire

the founder of *Country Life*. Here is Lutyens in Tudor-Jacobean mode, revelling in the warm texture of brick and the strength of massive timbers in the Tudor-style great hall and long gallery. His biographer Christopher Hussey called it "without overstatement a perfect architectural sonnet" on the theme of "a romantic bachelor's idyllic afternoon beside a Thames backwater".

Jane Brown's *Gardens of a Golden Afternoon* (1982) is an indispensable account of the Jekyll/Lutyens partnership and the first place to look for

information about Jekyll's gardens. She remarks in a fascinating book on *Lutyens and the Edwardians* (out on Monday) that Hudson used Deane Garden "as an artistic image" to promote the *Country Life* style of design, "rather than a home".

The garden with Jekyll's naturalistic plantings providing a counterpoint to Lutyens's geometrical design - "a perfect blend of order and charm" - was integral to Hudson's purpose. Jekyll created "a perfectly ordered and private little world" inside old brick walls, with 10ft wide mown

grass paths to give direction through the long grass planted with daffodils, fritillaries and meadow saffron. "It seems all the more odd, therefore," Brown adds, "that it was largely for public consumption."

With such pedigree, it is no surprise that Deane Garden is listed grade I. With three cottages and 2.5 acres, Knight Frank looks for offers over £2.8m. Also by Jekyll (1910) is the garden at Culmer Farmhouse, at Wormley, near Godalming, in Surrey (Savills, £750,000), while a good chunk of Lutyens' garden for Lord Battersea

at Overstrand, in Norfolk, comes with a bungalow called The Water Gardens (Strutt & Parker in Norwich, £155,000).

Or buyers may consider Jane Brown's own house and garden which are for sale. South Lodge (hill) & Morrisons, £188,000) is an early 19th century lodge for Dogmersfield Park near Odham in Hampshire with two acres of garden and woods.

Another Edwardian design is Dalrymple at Barley near Royston in Hertfordshire, listed grade II* and designed by Arthur Wood (1907). It is an Arts and Crafts house, important for its early use of reinforced concrete. The garden, a key part of the plan, is strongly architectural in being divided into "rooms" and has fine specimen trees. The price is £475,000 from Bidwells or Jackson-Stops.

Noble trees and formal gardens feature at St John's Jerusalem at Sutton at Home in Kent, which goes back to the 12th century and has a 13th century chapel (to be open to the public one afternoon a week). The National Trust offers a 99-year lease through S&P (Canterbury) for £500,000. There is no obligation to open the house, but the lessee must "employ a suitably qualified and experienced gardener for sufficient hours as the Trust may require".

In the west country, Hunterswood, near Glastonbury, in south Devon, has a wooded garden running down to the river Dart (Pulford or KF in Exeter, £450,000). It is a private, tranquil spot in 2.5 acres, completely protected from the south-west wind. Minions in January starts a long cycle of flowers that finishes with the Nerines in November.

Finally, Hazely House at North End between Newbury and Hungerford in Berkshire has a superb garden created over 20 years by Martin Lane Fox, eldest brother of FT gardening writer Robin. He follows the idea of rooms, enriching them with a rounded, palladian summerhouse, obelisk and columned pergola. With 140 acres, it costs £2.25m (Lane Fox).

■ Bidwells, Cambridge (01223-841842); Pulford, Exeter (01392-412007); HF & Morrisons, Odham (01256-702332); Jackson-Stops, Newmarket (01638-862231); Knight Frank, Exeter (01392-428111) and London (0171-629 3171); Lane Fox, London (0171-499 4785); Savills, Guildford (01227-451123) and Norwich (01603-617431).

■ Jane Brown's Lutyens and the Edwardians is published by Viking (£25).



Aubrey House, London. If you need to ask the price you can't afford it

On the move / Gerald Cadogan Leaseholding changes

The gains for leaseholders that the Labour party won in the committee stage of the Housing Bill are evaporating. While the committee abolished the low rent test as one of the hurdles for leaseholders with leases over 21 years wanting to buy their freehold, that has now been restored in the bill's report stage, but only for leases of more than 21 years and up to 50 years. Above 50 years there will still be no low rent test.

An automatic right for flat-tenants to manage the common areas in a block also proved a short-lived proposal. Now they have to demonstrate first that the landlord has been a bad manager. All welcome work for the lawyers.

□ □ □

Probably the most expensive house on the London market in 1996 is freehold. The brick 18th century Aubrey House

sits in a two-acre walled garden with old trees on the top of Campden Hill, W8, next to Holland Park. It has the calm of a house in a cathedral close yet it is only a few steps to Notting Hill Gate and Kensington Church Street.

The house has enough rooms for several extended families, including an annexe - a Cheltenham-lookalike three-house terrace designed by

Raymond Erith in the 1950s and soon afterwards listed. The Alexander family (of the City discount house) has owned Aubrey House since 1973. In the 18th century, Lady Mary Coke, one of four daughters of the 2nd Duke of Argyll known as "the bawling Campbell" or "the screaming sisterhood", and later an intimate friend of Horace Walpole and the Duke of York, lived there.

The price is £25m (Knight Frank, 0171-938 4311).

□ □ □

Clegg Kennedy Drew (0171-409 1944), the Duke of Somerset's agent, is looking for tenants for the dual mansion Bradley House, Maiden Bradley, in Wiltshire. Tenants will need to live there for at least five years and will need to pay more than £50,000 a year. The Duke will live in his other house, Berry Pomeroy in Devon.

□ □ □

A Jekyll/Lutyens PS. The Landmark Trust (01628-828920) has just taken a long lease on Goddards, Abinger Common, near Dorking, Surrey, from the Lutyens Trust. From next year it should be available for holiday lets for parties of up to 12. The house is little altered. Jekyll planted the garden.

INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY



STORA FRÖSUNDA

SOLNA, SWEDEN

OFFERED FOR SALE

Estate including manor-house with two detached wings and pavilion dating from the 1780s in an attractive park; also three farm buildings. Uniquely situated only 5 km from Stockholm city centre. 500 m to commuter train, bus or airport bus.

Area about 56,000 sq.m. at Hagä Norra, bounded by Euroroute 4 (the Uppsala road), to the east, Lilla Frösunda development area to the north, a local road to the west and "Billa" car sales and repair centre to the south. Dwelling and commercial accommodation about 1,981 sq.m. Farm buildings 1,200 sq.m.

Address: Stora Frösunda Gärd, S-171 53 Solna, Sweden

Property reference: Hagaland 2:1

The sale will take place by offer submitted by 24/6 96 at the latest. Free jurisdiction.

Visits and showings may take place only by agreement with the lawyer, Mr Hammarstolpe, who will also forward a more detailed description.

Hammarstolpe Advokatbyrå KB
Mr Sven-Erik Hammarstolpe
Box 3148, S-103 62 Stockholm
Sweden
Phone: +46 8 411 76 50. Fax: +46 8 21 40 74

SWITZERLAND
Lake Geneva & Mountain resorts
Our specialty since 1979
CHATELAIN IN MONTREUX, VILLARS, LES DALLAGES, LEYEN, OMBAY, VILLAS, CHAM, MONTREUX, VERNIER, etc. From CHF 100,000 - Credit facilities
REVAC S.A.
CH-1212 7794 15 40 - Tel 754 12 20

JUAN-LES-PINS
We sell 1st floor, apartment air-conditioned (59m2) - comprising hall - living - bedroom - bathroom - WC - Kitchen - Loggia (18m2) south-east - cellar - garage. Swimming pool and tennis court.
FF : 1,650,000.
Phone : 094222 3448388 or write to Revac S.A., c/o J. A. P. P. - CH-1203 Geneva

Bahamas Oceanfront Development
Exclusive single family estate sites within a prestigious 60 acre gated community for 20-30 select families on a peninsula with sandy beach and protected boating facilities. Buyers qualify for Permanent Residency Permits. Fax inquiries (809) 352-3580

SS INCOME-U.S.S.
\$15,000,000
Apartments for Sale in Dallas/Ft. Worth TX
Six Prime Locations
US 214-697-7199 info
Fax: 214-529-5127

MONTE-CARLO
"LE GRAND LARGE"
Attractive studio apartment 37 sq.m. in modern building, sea view, cellar and parking space (279)

AGEDI

10 Bd des Minimes MC 98000 Monaco
Tel 33-92 165 959 Fax 33-92 501 942

CANNES (FRANCE)
In the enchanting site of "La Californie" overlooking the Mediterranean from Cap d'Antibes to Cap d'Audoubert, the superb landscaped grounds (with swimming pool and tennis courts), we sell rare private apartments comprising large reception - 4 bedrooms - 4 bathrooms - 2 WC - kitchen and pantry - Terrace (76m²) - balconies. On the roof a magnificent terrace (180m²).
For information please write to B. Hesse - CH-1215 Sazay (GE) - Phone 0412 756 35 40

FOR SALE IBIZA
Residential golf course property (8000m2) within the 27 hole golf course Roca Lina. Fantastic views to the sea, multi-level into 4-5 stories. Price per m2: 1,250. Can be divided into 4 or 5 properties.
Residence 45, CH-301 Zurich
Tel. 0041 1 2213395 Fax 2213384

PORTUGAL CASCAIS
Luxury apartment with superb ocean view. 2 beds, 2 baths (1 ensuite). Living room with fireplace. Dining room, fully-stocked kitchen. 2 big balconies overlooking the ocean. Garage. 24hr portage. Leisure area with swimming pool, tennis, sauna, restaurant. Purchase exempt from Portuguese capital tax.
Buy directly from owner. £195,000.
Tel: 00351-1-485 2572 Fax 00351-1-457 0513

TUSCANY
Under development.
Five luxury houses with magnificent pool. Rural site.
30 min. Siena. 2-5 beds, 3-4 bathrooms. For Colour Brochure.
Tel: 0181 749 9118 Fax: 0181 743 5394

A VERY SUPERIOR EXAMPLE of a 2.2 Bed Apt in the heart of Nice Beautifully appointed living spaces. Tel: 0181 381 4854 and Suburb.
FRENCH PROPERTY NEWS Monthly old, new & sub properties, legal contracts. Ask for your FREE copy now. Tel: 0181 947 1034

FORESTS



FORESTS FOR SALE

NR. HAWES - NORTH YORKSHIRE

NATTLES FOREST

106 hectares (262 acres)
Productive commercial forest in scenic Yorkshire Dales
Guide Price £250,000

HINDHEAD - SURREY

BEACON HILL WOOD
38 hectares (94 acres)
Compact commercial pine woodland
Shooting rights included

NR. FARNHAM - SURREY

CROOKSBURY WOODLANDS
27 hectares (67 acres)
Predominantly conifer woodland
Guide Price £110,000
01223 841841

TRUMPINGTON ROAD CAMBRIDGE CB2 2JD
BURY ST EDMUNDS CAMBRIDGE IPWICH NORTHAMPTON NORWICH LONDON PERTH

ARGENTINA

FORESTRY 7,643 HECTARES

To be Sold Inclusive of

4,000 HECTARES ELLIOT'S PINE PLANTATIONS

Average Age: 10 years
In Misiones Province, one of Argentina's prime areas for Forestry. Outstanding Production Rates. Full maturity of Plantations at 20 Years. Good access and road infrastructure.

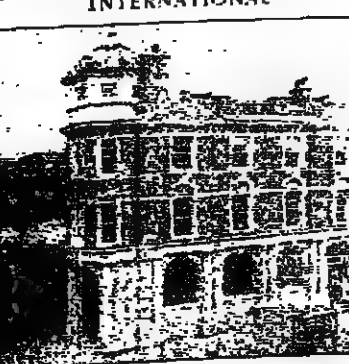
Growth Rates:	25 Tonnes/Hectare/Year
Production at Harvest:	500 Tonnes per Hectare
Annual Rainfall:	1,600 to 1,900 mm

Price on Application

MLB International
Madero, Lamusse, Belaustegui y Cia
Tel: (+54-1) 311-9657 Fax: (+54-1) 311-3932

WMS
(UK Agents)
Tel: (+44)-1723-862703 Fax: (+44)-1723-864329

HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL



CLERKENWELL - EC1

Three superb apartments remaining in this landmark turn of the century building located in the heart of historic Clerkenwell. Reception rooms, fully fitted high quality kitchens, 1 or 2 bedrooms, bathrooms. Video entry phone.

Prices from £95,000 - £137,500 Leasehold.
Islington & City office. Tel: 0171-236 4688

SWITZERLAND Villars Chesières - The Astragale - Domaine de l'Elysée

The Domaine de l'Elysée is an unspoilt 15 acre natural parkland estate situated on an easily accessible plateau just outside the centre of Villars, immediately adjoining the famous Domaine de la Residence.

It offers easy access to the centre of town and to the Roc d'Orsay cable car station and ski pistes. The views are absolutely stunning and the peace and beauty of the environment is totally unique.

At the highest point of the Domaine de l'Elysée we are offering 14 super-luxury apartments in the 'Astragale', which are built to the highest standards of Swiss quality. These apartments offer charm, discretion, panoramic southern views and unbeatable prices.

Villars offers beauty, security and a healthy quality of life at 1200m with every facility from skiing to golf, swimming tennis, luxury hotels, restaurants, exciting stores and attractive boutiques and world renowned schools. It is an internationally renowned yet human-sized resort, perfect for all four seasons and easily accessible to the delights of Montreux, on Lake Geneva, just 20 minutes away by road, or a little longer by train.

The Domaine de l'Elysée represents a setting of unique beauty and tranquility with properties offered at a most competitive price.

Prices from £120,000 (Fr. s. 220,000).
Up to 65% financing available at Swiss Franc mortgage rates of approx. 5%.

These freehold properties represent the very best example of apartments, chalets and houses which we build, manage and promote in Switzerland. Lennards Properties International is a British owned Swiss company with over 20 years experience offering full advice on investments both Swiss and worldwide. Company documentation and work permits for clients seeking more permanent Swiss resident status.

LENNARDS PROPERTIES INTERNATIONAL
INT +44 (UK) (0) 181 906 0515 or INT +44 (UK) (0) 181 958 6078/5194

FOOD AND DRINK

Cookery / Philippa Davenport

From the rustic to the rich

Cookery breaks are a growing segment of the package holiday market but the degree of comfort on offer, and the quality and relevance of the teaching, vary enormously; so too does the ratio of time-off to hands-on in the kitchen.

The learning element on some cookery holidays consists of a few peacock display demonstrations by a celebrity chef, plus a question and answer session, maybe. These tend to be staged in luxury settings, with multi-course gourmet dinners to match, and they may end with attendance diplomas dispensed by the master himself, together with signed copies of his latest oeuvre.

At the other extreme there are bills in ravishing rustic isolation where the accommodation offers little in the way of hot and cold running comforts. Plenty of hands-on cooking experience is guaranteed here, in fact every next meal depends on it, for participants are expected to play the dual role of catering staff and paying guest.

Is there a happy medium? I have not been on any of the holidays outlined below but discussions with the organisers suggest they should be able to deliver a happy mix of relaxation and inspiration – at least during the weeks I recom-

LA CUCINA ITALIANA
 (Tel: 0171-589 2425, fax: 0171-589 2426 or direct to Spain tel and fax 00 34 52 151303)
 Cost: £280 plus £110 single room supplement.

Launched last year, this umbrella title covers painting and decorating holidays as well as food and cookery breaks. Accommodation for 12 is spread over two properties set in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. Some of the bedrooms have shared bathroom facilities.

Programmes vary according to subject matter and tutor but these holidays are notable for the fact that they contain as many tastings, discussions and outings as demonstrations and hands-on sessions.

The main attraction is Spain's remarkable olive oil. Maria-Jose Sevilla, food and cookery writer, wine expert and member of the olive oil council, who will be tutoring for the week June 1-9. The subjects she will explore include maintaining and selling olive oil, from escabèche to salt anchovies, rice dishes, saffron, soups, olive oils, breads and convent sweets.

Lunch will be taken out on two or three occasions (at a farm estate, an inn, on a picnic). During out and a night away from base are also planned to allow for visits to artisan cheese and chorizo makers, tastings of wines, vinegars and olives in the bodegas of Jerez, a visit to the Royal Andalusian Equestrian School, a colourful morning in the market and a tour of the splendid Moorish city of Ronda.

THE SPIRIT OF ANDALUCIA
 (Tel: 0171-589 2425, fax: 0171-589 2426 or direct to Spain tel and fax 00 34 52 151303)
 Cost: £280 plus £110 single room supplement.

Launched last year, this umbrella title covers painting and decorating holidays as well as food and cookery breaks. Accommodation for 12 is spread over two properties set in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. Some of the bedrooms have shared bathroom facilities.

Programmes vary according to subject matter and tutor but these holidays are notable for the fact that they contain as many tastings, discussions and outings as demonstrations and hands-on sessions.

The main attraction is Spain's remarkable olive oil. Maria-Jose Sevilla, food and cookery writer, wine expert and member of the olive oil council, who will be tutoring for the week June 1-9. The subjects she will explore include maintaining and selling olive oil, from escabèche to salt anchovies, rice dishes, saffron, soups, olive oils, breads and convent sweets.

Lunch will be taken out on two or three occasions (at a farm estate, an inn, on a picnic). During out and a night away from base are also planned to allow for visits to artisan cheese and chorizo makers, tastings of wines, vinegars and olives in the bodegas of Jerez, a visit to the Royal Andalusian Equestrian School, a colourful morning in the market and a tour of the splendid Moorish city of Ronda.

ITALIAN COOKERY WEEKS
 (Tel: 0171-820 2121, fax: 0171-401-6763)
 Cost: £250 for £295 including flights.

This has been running for five years and the teaching problems all such operations are prone to at the outset have been successfully ironed out. There are two locations, a farmhouse above Orvieto in Umbria, and a 15th century castle at Ostuni in Apulia. (A third is planned in the Veneto – by next season perhaps.)

Mastermind behind it all, and chief tutor is Susanna Gehrmann, who seductively divides her summer between the two areas with their very different styles of cooking, both relatively unknown beyond their borders and both seductive. During May, June and July her week-long courses introduce eager audiences to the tastes and charms of Umbria.

In September she heads for the hotter heat of Italy, where after landlocked Umbria, she rejoices in cooking with seafoods as well as the rich flavours of local olive oil and such vegetables as asparagus, tomatoes, sweet and hot chilli peppers, rocket and olive of rape.

Participants in both places are limited to 20, with accommodation in double rooms only with ensuite showers. Scheduled excursions (other than to market) take place on just one day midweek – to Assisi, Perugia, Foligno or Spoleto, when in Umbria, to Lucca, the Tuscan valley of the ancient harbour town of Monopoli in Apulia.

them. If you rate room service, privacy and independence highly, think again before booking. The atmosphere is informal, closer to a house-party than a hotel, occasionally schoolish.

Meals are taken at communal tables (lunch, dinner and, alas, breakfast too); expeditions are usually made by minibus. Favoured locations are converted farmhouses with added swimming pool. Bedrooms and arrangements for ablutions tend to be modest. Long mirrors are rare. Showers are more common than baths; some rooms do not boast either. Check and double-check that you are not expected to share.

Prices generally cover the whole programme, excluding flights but including organised outings such as going to market, meeting local food producers (artisan if you are lucky, industrial for the less fortunate), dining out in a restaurant, attending a wine-tasting or lecture.

A little light foraging for foods from the wild is almost certain to be scheduled; at the very least there will be the opportunity to harvest produce from the vegetable garden or orchard of the host property. And, of course, time will be allocated for sightseeing and shopping. Balance is all.

mand. I have selected these particular weeks because of the tutors in residence then; I reckon their presence will make the occasions.

What I look for in a cookery holiday tutor is a fine cook, an able teacher, generous about sharing knowledge, good at

building culinary confidence in others, open to fresh ideas and fun to be with. She is a cook, not a chef.

I am sorry to be sexist and I am sorry if I appear anti-chef, but cooking for table service is very different from cooking for those with whom you plan

to sit down and eat.

Chefs have all day to cook and staff to back them. Home cooks do not. Eating in restaurants can spark great ideas, of course, but most of us can learn best from someone who experiences and understands the practicalities of the domes-

tic cook's predicament.

Another reason for favouring the tutors I have chosen is because of the valuable insider information they can offer. Being natives of the country in which the course is held, they have the edge over outsiders. Yet because they also live in

the UK, they understand the British cook's needs and approach and can, for example, advise about substitute ingredients where necessary.

Cookery breaks are group activity holidays, designed for reasonably gregarious people of varying culinary skills

united by a shared interest in eating well. They aim to inject fresh zest into cooking, not to affect road-to-Damascus conversions by transforming participants from "can't boil an egg" status to dazzling competence.

Loners will probably hate

Wine

Future present

Jancis Robinson gets her Bordeaux thrills cheaply

This campaign is the nastiest I have known," says one London wine merchant bitterly about his experiences selling (or rather allocating) futures in 1995 Bordeaux. "You have people you've never heard of screaming down the phone at you because they want 10 cases of one of the top wines and you can't even let them have one."

With scores of important prices still undivulged (and even the normally underpriced Ch Léoville-Barton seeking an increase of 30 per cent), it is certainly the messiest, most protracted Bordeaux en primeur campaign ever. However, it is no less predictable than every other year because:

1. All the first growths start off at the same opening price from the châteaux and then prices rapidly diverge according to reputations determined by the impact of half-formed legends on a few influential paleontologists (which is the basis of the entire campaign);

2. The Bordeaux negociants favour those customers who have stock with them through lesser vintages (such as 1991, 1992, 1993 and even 1994) – at least this, they intimate, is why British merchants' allocations are being squeezed;

3. The châteaux owners play a self-important waiting game ("After you," "No, after you,"), releasing their opening prices at a snail's pace lest a neighbour might manage to trump their price. "It'll be August before we know how much Pichon-Lalande and Léoville Las Cases cost," said one glum fine wine trader in London this week.

The Bordeaux fine wine distribution system has to be one of the least efficient in the world but, dammit, it can eventually deliver goods of unparalleled quality to the consumer – in early 1996 in this case.

One unusual characteristic of this year's campaign,

according to Graham Chidgey of Laytons, London NW1, which has been selling Bordeaux en primeur since 1964, is that all the Bordeaux negociants seem to be selling the same wines at the same price (which means that 1995 prices provide a useful guide to the pricing of various merchants).

The challenge for the British merchants is not to cut a deal but to get their hands on enough of the most sought-after wines – for 1995 is not a year to tarry with second best. This is a year in which Cornay & Barrow of London EC1's policy of pursuing exclusive

'The 1995 clarets? Me, I'm off to Marks and Spencer'

distribution agreements is paying off. If you want to buy Pomerol superstar Ch Pétrus, the good-value Clos St Martin, or any one of the opulent fan of right bank properties represented by J.P. Moueix (whose prices were announced four weeks ago), then the Queen's wine merchant is the only one for you. C&B also has a good chunk of the UK allocation of the highly touted wines of François Mitjaville (Château Rotondeau and Roc de Cambes), with most of the rest of the faithful Savage Selections of Gloucestershire (01451-880159).

If you want to buy Ch Le Pin, Pétrus's new rival, forget it. The Far Eastern market has discovered it in a big way and there are signs that Asian customers have found that it is possible to bypass London en route for Bordeaux.

If you want a comprehensive view of the vintage, get the new list from Farr Vintners of London SW1. True to form, Farr includes scores from the influential Americans Robert Parker and Wine Spectator and even, occasionally, their own views, notably: "We are Britain's largest and most profitable Fine Wine Company."

In other cases I might suggest steering clear of a merchant which boasts of its high profitability; but for goods that will not even be delivered for two years, and may sit in bonded warehouses for many years after that, the importer's financial security is a key factor.

Me, I'm off to Marks and Spencer. It has a delightful, lively Classic Claret 1995 Ch Cazeau at £4.99. It may have been made at a co-op in the Entre-Deux-Mers but it can deliver much of that exciting purple, concentrated, whiff-of-fermentation-rot thrill that attaches to all well-made young Bordeaux – and may just persuade you that 1995 is worth investing in.

By the end of this month Oddbins (which will, bless it, be offering grand 1995s by the bottle from the end of next year) should have the even more convincing Ch Lartigue, Côte de Castillon 1995, also £4.99, in a very smart bottle with lots of ripe tannins and tasty, crunchy fruit. By early June the Co-op should have Ginester's sappy Ch Pierrou-selle 1996 for only £3.49 and by early July the northern supermarket Morrisons should have its superior Graves sister, Ch St Gallier 1995, for £4.49.

These last two wines are the impressive result of Ginester's policy of overseeing production on the spot via a local team of winemakers who have "flown" dozens rather than thousands of miles. These are all wines which can be drunk already with great pleasure – while waiting for the grand châteaux to sort out their pecking order.



Eating Out / Nicholas Lander

The revival of pub food

When I asked the taxi driver to drop me at O'Connor Don, a pub on the corner of Marylebone Lane, London, he was convinced I was going there for the beer.

But before I had even stepped my first half of draught Guinness in the first-floor restaurant above the pub, I had been warmly greeted, shown a wine list that featured enterprising wines by the glass – including a Petit Syrah from Mexico – and an enticing menu.

My lunch, six hot, buttered Irish oysters followed by herb-crusted calves liver – sadly spoiled by disappointing red onion marmalade – and an excellent armagnac and prune paraffin sharpened by an Earl Grey syrup, would have convinced even the most sceptical taxi driver that there was more to this pub than beer.

Pubs are sited on some of the finest locations in British towns and villages. Other European cities, such as Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels and Madrid, have always understood the value of a good corner site and it is no surprise that so many are occupied by bars and brasseries. In Britain these sites are often home to one of its 57,000 pubs.

A trip to Wardour Street, Soho, central London, illustrates the point. On one side is Mezzo, touted by Sir Terence Conran, its creator, as London's riposte to Paris's La Coupole. To create this 700-seater, Sir Terence had to dig underground, from a frontage of no more than 17 yards leaving only a handful of window tables. Across the street, with a corner frontage twice as large, is the handsomely tiled but sadly neglected pub, The Intrepid Fox.

The food served in the 85 to 90 per cent of British pubs that are still controlled by the four leading brewers improves

slowly, albeit to a formula. To find genuine culinary excitement you have to discover pubs owned or managed by individuals. In 1990 there were 100,000 pubs in Britain – a number in sharp decline.

The culinary transformation of the British pub probably began in the 1960s. Three great characters, George Pagendam at the Black Bull Inn in Moulton, North Yorkshire, David Dalzell-Piper at the Dundas Arms, Kintbury, Berkshire, and Franco Taruship at the Walnut Tree Inn, Aberavenny, Wales, stood out at the time as beacons of quality in a sea of mediocrity. This tri-

inexpensively and in friendly surroundings which ensure that they return, they told me I was mad.

The Crown struggled for six months but now makes a terrific profit, says Loftus. As well as his own personal style, Loftus also disclosed the financial structure he had put in place – one that is considered vital to running a successful pub now.

He retains the beer, ensuring that the range and quality is as good as possible, because nothing in a pub is as profitable as selling a pint or a shot of spirits (gross profit can be well over 60 per cent). He introduced an inexpensive, accessible wine list – wine is particularly popular with women, the 50 per cent of the British population whom pubs had invariably ignored. Finally, he served food that customers were happy to order regularly.

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission break-up of the brewing industry and the recession both played their part in bringing Loftus's ideas to London.

In 1991 Michael Belben met chef David Eyre working in a Covent Garden restaurant and they hatched plans to buy their own place. This exercise was proving expensive, even on paper, when they were tipped off about The Eagle, a pub on the corner of Farringdon Road, E1, which a small brewery was so keen to sell that it loaned them 25 per cent of the £25,000 set-up costs.

Belben said: "What we have tried to do is offer restaurant quality but dispense with the inherent pomposity. There's no linen on the tables, no waiter service and no tipping – it's very simple entertainment. But if there is one thing we did pioneer it is one-plate dishes, such as Italian sausages with sweet roast onions and rocket, which keep prices down."

This is another integral part of a financially successful life for pubs, because with longer opening hours they can serve numbers that restaurants cannot match. The Eagle seats 55 but during a two-hour lunch serves 120 people. Rarely does even the most popular restaurateur manage to "turn a table" at lunchtime.

Within London, The Eagle has fostered The Lansdowne and The Engineer, in NW1; The Angelsea Arms, W6; Front Page and The Cross Keys, SW3; The Mason's Arms, SW8, and The Ship, SW18. But it is on the borders of Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Essex that the next stage of ameliorating pub food is taking place.

There are four pubs – The Three Horseshoes in Madingley, The White Hart, Great Yeldham, The Pheasant, Keyton near Huntingdon, and the Old Bridge in Huntingdon – run by Hunsbridge Ltd and its managing director, John Hoskins, a Master of Wine.

They share not only the core of a bountiful wine cellar with

a high proportion of half-bottles but also financial incentive schemes that pour the success of each pub squarely on the shoulders of the chef.

"What I have done," Hoskins says, "is to give the chef a financial stake in each pub. Because the pubs are physically close together customers can compare whether the pan-fried fillet of sea bass with ratatouille and spinach pasta at The White Hart tastes as good as the sea bass with fennel and cardamom purée at The Pheasant."

By turning the chefs into chef-patrons they have become far more responsible for what is virtually their own business.

Customers have benefited while business and chefs have prospered – Hoskins says that over the past two years two chefs have earned more than he has.

Fond as I am of draught Guinness and real ale, a pub where the chef is considered an important ingredient is my idea of a good pub.

1995 Bordeaux opening offer

Published 16th May

20 page vintage report, more than 60 château profiles and tasting notes including cellar projections, following our in-depth visit to the region in April. Red, dry and sweet white recommendations.

For your complimentary copy please telephone or fax

Lay & Wheeler Limited

Established 1854

6 Culver Street West, Colchester CO1 1JA
 (Tel) 01206 764446 (Fax) 01206 560002



السنة من الألفية

INTERNATIONAL ARTS GUIDE

What's on in the principal cities

AMSTERDAM

AUCTION

Sotheby's Amsterdam Tel: 31-20-5502200
 ● Modern and Contemporary Prints: the sale includes a selection of prints and multiples, including the woodcut "Yellow Heart" by Jim Dine, the set "Bad Boys" by Keith Haring and a triptych portrait by Francis Bacon. Andy Warhol is represented with a portrait of Joseph Beuys - silkscreen, second state - dating from 1980-83. The sale also includes works by Pierre Alechinsky and Asger Jorn, and the Dutch artists Karel Appel, M.C. Escher, Cornelie, Bram van Velde and Anton Heyboer; 10.30am & 2pm; May 14

CONCERT

Concertgebouw Tel: 31-20-5730573
 ● Rotterdamse Philharmonisch Orkest: with conductor Sir Simon Rattle and alto Jari van Nes perform Gubaidulina's Zeitgestalten, Mahler's Rückert Lieder and Brahms's Symphony No.2; 3pm; May 18

OPERA

Het Muziektheater Tel: 31-20-5518117
 ● Pelléas et Mélisande: by Debussy. Conducted by Mark Elder and performed by De Nederlandse Opera and the Rotterdamse Philharmonisch Orkest. Soloists include Philip Langridge, Willard White, Robert Lloyd and Gaille le Roi; 7.30pm; May 12 (1.30pm), 15, 19 (1.30pm), 21, 24

BERLIN

CONCERT

Deutsche Oper Berlin Tel: 49-30-3438401
 ● Alfredo Kraus: performance by the tenor, accompanied by pianist Edelmiro Amante and cellist Aler Polo. The programme includes works by Scarlatti, Gluck, Massenet, Granados and others; 8pm; May 18
 Konzerthaus Tel: 49-30-203090
 ● Joachim Dalcroix: the organist performs J.S. Bach's Sonata in C minor, BWV526, Preludes and Fugues in G major, BWV541 and Preludes and Fugues in E minor, BWV533; 3.30pm; May 18

JAZZ & BLUES

Philharmonie & Kammermusikkol Tel: 49-30-2614383
 ● The Glenn Miller Orchestra: with conductor Wil Selden perform works by Glenn Miller; 8pm; May 14, 15
 Staatsoper Unter den Linden Tel: 49-30-2032881
 ● Der Ring des Nibelungen: Die Walküre: by Wagner. Conducted by Daniel Barenboim and performed by the Staatsoper Unter den Linden. Soloists include Plácido Domingo, Uta Priew, Falk Struckmann and René Pape; 4pm; May 19

THEATRE

Staatstheater am Gärtnersplatz Tel: 49-30-880020
 ● Qui est là: created by Peter Brook. In co-operation with Marie-Hélène Estienne and Jean-Claude Carrière. The cast includes Anne Benoit, David Benoit, Sotigou Kouyaté, Giovanna Mezzogiorno, Bruce Myers and Yoshi Oida; 8pm, May 11, 18, 24 also 3pm, May 18; 3pm, not on May 19; from May 11 to May 24 (Not Mon)

BIRMINGHAM

CONCERT

Symphony Hall Tel: 44-121-2002000
 ● Prague Symphony Orchestra: with conductor Jiri Belohlavek and cellist Ralph Kirshbaum perform works by Dvořák, Elgar and Martinu; 8pm; May 16

BOLOGNA

EXHIBITION

Galleria d'Arte Moderna Tel: 39-51-502859
 ● Gilbert & George: an Anthology: retrospective exhibition devoted to the work of the British artist-duo Gilbert & George. The display includes 100 large works from the 1970s to the present; from May 18 to Sep 8

BONN

DANCE

Oper der Stadt Bonn Tel: 49-228-7281
 ● Don Quixote: a choreography by Valery Panov to music by Miklos, performed by the Ballett Bonn and the Orchester der Beethovenhalle. Soloists include Didier Gelffiff, Danilo Mezzotta, Irina Zavialova and Vadim Bondar; 4pm; May 12, 18 (7pm), 24 (8pm)

BRUSSELS

DANCE

Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie Tel: 32-2-2291200
 ● Mozart Concert Arias: a choreography by Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker to music by Mozart, performed by Rosas. Music performed by Anima Eterna; 8pm; May 18, 19, 21, 22, 23

CARDIFF

CONCERT

St David's Hall Tel: 44-1222-878444
 ● Evelyn Glennie: solo performance by the percussionist. The concert offers a mix of music, from a newly commissioned work by Django Bates to Rhythm Spikes by the New Zealand composer Peatshas; 7.30pm;



Tina Turner: performing a series of concerts in Rotterdam

May 14

COLOGNE

OPERA

Opernhaus Tel: 49-221-2218240
 ● Sers: by Handel. Conducted by Graeme Jenkins and performed by the Oper Köln. Soloists include Jeanne Piland, Brian Asawa and Harry Peeters; 7pm; May 14, 18, 22

COPENHAGEN

EXHIBITION

Statens Museum for Kunst - Royal Museum of Fine Arts Tel: 45-33 91 21 28
 ● Rembrandt: exhibition of works on paper by the Dutch master. The display includes the master's collection of drawings and etchings by Rembrandt supplemented by loans from foreign collections; to May 12

DORTMUND

EXHIBITION

Museum am Ostwall Tel: 49-231-5023247
 ● Gerrit Thomas Rietveld: retrospective exhibition devoted to the Dutch architect and designer Gerrit Thomas Rietveld (1888-1964). The display features more than 300 original works, including a complete bedroom; from May 12 to Jul 21

DRESDEN

OPERA

Sächsische Staatsoper Dresden Tel: 49-351-49110
 ● Nabucco: by Verdi. Conducted by John Fiore and performed by the Sächsische Staatsoper Dresden. Soloists include Hans-Joachim Ketelsen, Tom Martinen, Danilo Rigosa and Soja Smoljaninova; 8pm; May 19, 23 (Fri)

DUISBURG

CONCERT

Tonhalle Düsseldorf Tel: 49-211-5992081
 ● Staatskapelle Weimar: with conductor George Alexander Albrecht and pianist Chia Chou perform works by R. Schumann, Liszt and Rachmaninov; 8pm; May 19
 Opernhaus Düsseldorf Tel: 49-211-89080
 ● Götterdämmerung: by Wagner. Conducted by Hans Wallat and performed by the Deutsche Oper am Rhein. Soloists include Wolfgang Schenk, Jürgen Freier, Hermann Becht, Hans Tschammer, Gabriele Schnaut, Beatrice Niehoff and Nancy Johnson; 5pm; May 19

EDINBURGH

CONCERT

The Queen's Hall Tel: 44-131-6683456
 ● The Meadows Chamber Orchestra: with conductor Peter Evans and pianist Anna Matikova perform works by McGuire, Chopin and Beethoven; 7.45pm; May 12

GENEVA

AUCTION

Sotheby's Genève Tel: 41-22-7328585
 ● Important Watches, Wristwatches and Clocks: this sale at the Hôtel Beau Rivage features more than 300 lots, including wristwatches by Rolex, Patek Philippe, Vacheron & Constantin, Jaeger le Coultre and Cartier, and pocketwatches by Lange & Söhne; 10.30am & 2.30pm; May 14

HAMBURG

CONCERT

Centrum Cultural Manuel de Falla Tel: 34-55-220022
 ● I Musici: including Mariana Sirbu, Antonio Perez, Arnaldo Apostoli and Claudio Buccarella, perform works by Vivaldi; 8pm; May 12

HAMBURG

CONCERT

Musikhalle Hamburg Tel: 49-40-345920
 ● Katie and Marielle Labèque: the pianists perform works by Mozart, Ravel and De Falla; 7.30pm; May 14
 OPERA
 Hamburgische Staatsoper Tel: 49-40-351721
 ● Die Fledermaus: by J. Strauss.

HAMBURG

CONCERT

Musikhalle Hamburg Tel: 49-40-345920
 ● Katie and Marielle Labèque: the pianists perform works by Mozart, Ravel and De Falla; 7.30pm; May 14
 OPERA
 Hamburgische Staatsoper Tel: 49-40-351721
 ● Die Fledermaus: by J. Strauss.

HAMBURG

CONCERT

Musikhalle Hamburg Tel: 49-40-345920
 ● Katie and Marielle Labèque: the pianists perform works by Mozart, Ravel and De Falla; 7.30pm; May 14
 OPERA
 Hamburgische Staatsoper Tel: 49-40-351721
 ● Die Fledermaus: by J. Strauss.

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion Tel: 1-213-972-8001
 ● Madama Butterfly: by Puccini. Conducted by Richard Buckley and performed by the Los Angeles Opera. Soloists include Verónica Villarroel, Luis Lima, Rodney Giffy and John Atkins; 7pm; May 21, 24 (7.30pm)

MILAN

CONCERT

Teatro alla Scala di Milano Tel: 39-2-72003744
 ● Orchestra e Coro del Teatro alla Scala: with conductor Riccardo Muti perform works by Rossini, Verdi, Puccini and Boito; 8pm; May 18
 THEATRE
 Teatro Carcano Tel: 39-2-55181377
 ● Play it again, Sam: by Woody Allen (in Italian). Directed by Antonio Salinas and performed by the Teatro Carcano. The cast includes Antonio Salinas, Adolfo Lastretti, Francesca Bianco and Florento Fraccascia; Tue-Sat 8pm, Sun 3.30pm; from May 17 to Jun 2 (Not Mon)

MONTE CARLO

OPERA

Salle Garnier Tel: 33-93 15 83 03
 ● The Picture of Dorian Gray: by Liebermann. Conducted by Stuart Bedford and performed by the Opéra de Monte Carlo and the Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte Carlo. Soloists include Jeffrey Lentz, John Hancock and Gregory Reinhart; 8pm; May 12

MUNICH

EXHIBITION

Staatsgalerie Moderner Kunst Tel: 49-89-21127137
 ● Franz Marc zum Fritz Winter. Zeichnungen zum Krieg: exhibition centred around Marc's "Skizzenbuch aus dem Felde" (1915) and Winter's "Kriegszeichnungen" (1940-1944). The display focuses on the parallels and differences between these drawings made in the first and second world wars, and on the views of their creators on the war; to May 19

MUNICH

OPERA

Nationaltheater Tel: 49-89-21851820
 ● La Nozze di Figaro: by Mozart. Conducted by Paul Daniel and performed by the Bayerische Staatsoper. Soloists include William Shimell, Silvia Fiodi, Barbara Bonney and Lucio Gallo; 7pm; May 18

NEW YORK

AUCTION

Christie's, Manson & Woods International, Inc. Tel: 1-212-546-1000
 ● Important Latin American Paintings: sale celebrating Christie's Latin American Department's 15th anniversary. Highlights include works by Frida Kahlo, Fernando Botero, Armando Morales, Diego Rivera, Rufino Tamayo and Joaquín Torres-García; 7pm; May 16
 CONCERT
 Avery Fisher Hall Tel: 1-212-875-5030
 ● New York Philharmonic: with conductor André Previn perform Mozart's Divertimento, K138, Symphony No.36 and Symphony No.40; 8pm; May 17, 21 (7.30pm)

JAZZ & BLUES

Blue Note Tel: 1-212-475-8592
 ● Kenny Burrell & The Jazz Heritage All-Stars: with Jimmy Owens, Jerome Richardson, Steve Turre, Sir Roland Hanna, Ray Drummond, Carl Allen and Vanessa Rubin; 8pm & 11.30pm; from May 14 to May 19
 OPERA
 Brooklyn Academy of Music Tel: 1-718-636-4111
 ● Orfeo ed Euridice: by Gluck. Conducted by Christopher Hogwood and performed by the Mark Morris Dance Group and the Handel & Haydn Society Chorus and Orchestra. Soloists include counter-tenor Michael Chance, and soprano Dana Hanchard and Christine Brandes; 8pm; May 16 (7pm), 17, 18

NICE

CONCERT

Opéra de Nice Tel: 33-92 17 40 00
 ● Orchestre Philharmonique de Nice: with conductor Jeffrey Tate perform works by Lutoslawski and Bruckner; 8pm; May 18
 EXHIBITION
 Musée Matisse Tel: 33-93 53 40 53
 ● Le Ceramique Fauve: exhibition of ceramics produced between 1907 and 1911 in Anières by the ceramist André Metthey in collaboration with The Fauvists. Artists like Matisse, Derain, Vlaminck, Van Dongen and Rouault made the paintings for Metthey's ceramics; from May 17 to Jul 21

PARIS

CONCERT

Cité de la Musique Tel: 33-1 44 84 45 00
 ● The Chamber Orchestra of Europe: with conductor Heinz Holliger and pianist Andrés Schiff perform works by Haydn, Venns, R. Schumann and Shostakovich; 8pm; May 18
 Salle Pleyel Tel: 33-1 45 61 63 00
 ● Orchestre de Paris: with conductor Semyon Bychkov and violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter perform works by Sibelius and Shostakovich; 4.30pm; May 16

PARIS

EXHIBITION

Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain Tel: 33-1 42 18 56 50
 ● By Night: exhibition devoted to night and the way it has inspired painters, photographers, video and film makers. The display includes works by Edouard Vuillard, Félix Vallotton, Otto Dix, Weesge, Robert Frank, Pierre Molinier, Cindy Sherman, Wolfgang Tillmans, Felix Gonzalez Torres and others; to May 19

ROME

CONCERT

Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia Tel: 39-6-3611064
 ● The Chamber Orchestra of Europe: with conductor Heinz Holliger and pianist Andrés Schiff perform works by Haydn, Venns, R. Schumann and Shostakovich; 8pm; May 18

ROTTERDAM

EXHIBITION

Museum Boijmans-van Beuningen Tel: 31-10-419400
 ● Cindy Sherman: exhibition of 70 photographs featuring examples of the "Untitled Film Stills" of 1977-1980 which brought Sherman international recognition. Also on show are works from her most extreme photo-series "Disgust Pictures" (1986-1989), "Sex Pictures" (1992) and "Honor Pictures" (1995), the most recent of which have not been exhibited before; to May 19
 POP-MUSIC
 Ahoy Sportpaleis Tel: 31-10-4104204
 ● Tina Turner: performance by the American singer; 8pm; May 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25, 26

SAN FRANCISCO

CONCERT

Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall Tel: 1-415-864-8000
 ● San Francisco Symphony: with conductor Herbert Blomstedt and pianist Leif Ove Andnes perform works by Haydn, Beethoven and Schubert; 8pm; May 16 (2pm), 17, 18
 EXHIBITION
 California Plaza of the Legion of Honor Tel: 1-415-863-3330
 ● Treasures of the Achenbach: the Achenbach Foundation for Graphic Arts celebrates its return to the remodeled Legion of Honor with an exhibition featuring a selection of its collection of 75,000 prints, 3,000 drawings and 2,000 books, covering several centuries of graphic art; to May 19

SINGAPORE

AUCTION

Bonhams Singapore Tel: 65-3335225
 ● Bonhams opens in Singapore: the London auction house Bonhams launches its Singapore office with a two-day sale of jewellery, fountain pens, maps of Asia, and a collection of Chinese export silver; 11am; May 11, 12

STOCKHOLM

OPERA

Kungliga Teatern - Royal Swedish Opera House Tel: 46-8-7914300
 ● Die Tote Stadt: by Korngold. Conducted by Leif Segerstam and performed by the Royal Swedish Opera. Soloists include Thomas Sunnegårdh, Katarina Delanyman, Anders Bergström and Ingrid Tolbasson; 7.30pm; May 14, 17, 22, 24

SYDNEY

CONCERT

Concert Hall Tel: 61-2-250-7111
 ● Beaux Arts Trio: violinist Ida Kavafian, pianist Menahem Pressler and cellist Peter Wiley perform works by Hummel, Arensky and Beethoven; 8.15pm; May 18

TOKYO

CONCERT

Hitori Memorial Hall Tel: 81-3-54587777
 ● Orchestre National de Lyon: with conductor Emmanuel Krivine and cellist Anne Ghestier perform Debussy's Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune, Saint-Saëns Cello Concerto No.1 and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No.5; 7pm; May 20
 Kōji Hall Tel: 81-3-32370081
 ● Maria João Pires and Augustin Dumay: the pianist and violinist perform works by Schubert, Grieg and Brahms; 7pm; May 14, 16, 18

VIENNA

CONCERT

Konzerthaus Tel: 43-1-7121211
 ● Má Vlast: by Smetana. Performed by the London Classical Players with conductor Roger Norrington; 7.30pm; May 14
 Musikverein Tel: 43-1-5058881
 ● Cheryl Studer: recital by the soprano. The programme includes works by Brahms, Wolf, Mahler and Beethoven; 7.30pm; May 18

WIEN

OPERA

Wiener Staatsoper Tel: 43-1-51442960
 ● La Nozze di Figaro: by Mozart. Conducted by Michael Schoenwandt and performed by the Wiener Staatsoper. Soloists include Barbara Frittl, Ruxandra Donose and Boje Skovhus; 8pm; May 19, 22 (7pm)

WASHINGTON

DANCE

Opera House Tel: 1-202-416-6600
 ● Jeffrey Ballet: perform the choreographies Suite Saint-Saëns and Round of Angels by Arpino, Interspace by Sanders, and Sometimes it Snows in April by Dean; 8pm; May 14, 15, 16

ZURICH

CONCERT

Tonhalle Tel: 41-1-2063434
 ● Má Vlast: by Smetana. Performed by the London Classical Players with conductor Roger Norrington; 7.30pm; May 19
 OPERA
 Opernhaus Zürich Tel: 41-1-268 6666
 ● Ariadne auf Naxos: by R. Strauss. Conducted by Ralf Wolkert and performed by the Oper Zürich. Soloists include Gabriele Lechner, Edita Gruberova, Stefania Kaluza and Frederic Kati; 7.30pm; May 18, 19, 22 (8pm)

ZURICH

CONCERT

Tonhalle Tel: 41-1-2063434
 ● Má Vlast: by Smetana. Performed by the London Classical Players with conductor Roger Norrington; 7.30pm; May 19
 OPERA
 Opernhaus Zürich Tel: 41-1-268 6666
 ● Ariadne auf Naxos: by R. Strauss. Conducted by Ralf Wolkert and performed by the Oper Zürich. Soloists include Gabriele Lechner, Edita Gruberova, Stefania Kaluza and Frederic Kati; 7.30pm; May 18, 19, 22 (8pm)

ZURICH

CONCERT

Tonhalle Tel: 41-1-2063434
 ● Má Vlast: by Smetana. Performed by the London Classical Players with conductor Roger Norrington; 7.30pm; May 19
 OPERA
 Opernhaus Zürich Tel: 41-1-268 6666
 ● Ariadne auf Naxos: by R. Strauss. Conducted by Ralf Wolkert and performed by the Oper Zürich. Soloists include Gabriele Lechner, Edita Gruberova, Stefania Kaluza and Frederic Kati; 7.30pm; May 18, 19, 22 (8pm)

ZURICH

CONCERT

Tonhalle Tel: 41-1-2063434
 ● Má Vlast: by Smetana. Performed by the London Classical Players with conductor Roger Norrington; 7.30pm; May 19
 OPERA
 Opernhaus Zürich Tel: 41-1-268 6666
 ● Ariadne auf Naxos: by R. Strauss. Conducted by Ralf Wolkert and performed by the Oper Zürich. Soloists include Gabriele Lechner, Edita Gruberova, Stefania Kaluza and Frederic Kati; 7.30pm; May 18, 19, 22 (8pm)

ZURICH

CONCERT

Tonhalle Tel: 41-1-2063434
 ● Má Vlast: by Smetana. Performed by the London Classical Players with conductor Roger Norrington; 7.30pm; May 19
 OPERA
 Opernhaus Zürich Tel: 41-1-268 6666
 ● Ariadne auf Naxos: by R. Strauss. Conducted by Ralf Wolkert and performed by the Oper Zürich. Soloists include Gabriele Lechner, Edita Gruberova, Stefania Kaluza and Frederic Kati; 7.30pm; May 18, 19, 22 (8pm)

ZURICH

CONCERT

Tonhalle Tel: 41-1-2063434
 ● Má Vlast: by Smetana. Performed by the London Classical Players with conductor Roger Norrington; 7.30pm; May 19
 OPERA
 Opernhaus Zürich Tel: 41-1-268 6666
 ● Ariadne auf Naxos: by R. Strauss. Conducted by Ralf Wolkert and performed by the Oper Zürich. Soloists include Gabriele Lechner, Edita Gruberova, Stefania Kaluza and Frederic Kati; 7.30pm; May 18, 19, 22 (8pm)

ZURICH

CONCERT

Tonhalle Tel: 41-1-2063434
 ● Má Vlast: by Smetana. Performed by the London Classical Players with conductor Roger Norrington; 7.30pm; May 19
 OPERA
 Opernhaus Zürich Tel: 41-1-268 6666
 ● Ariadne auf Naxos: by R. Strauss. Conducted by Ralf Wolkert and performed by the Oper Zürich. Soloists include Gabriele Lechner, Edita Gruberova, Stefania Kaluza and Frederic Kati; 7.30pm; May 18, 19, 22 (8pm)

ZURICH

CONCERT

Tonhalle Tel: 41-1-2063434
 ● Má Vlast: by Smetana. Performed by the London Classical Players with conductor Roger Norrington; 7.30pm; May 19
 OPERA
 Opernhaus Zürich Tel: 41-1-268 6666
 ● Ariadne auf Naxos: by R. Strauss. Conducted by Ralf Wolkert and performed by the Oper Zürich. Soloists include Gabriele Lechner, Edita Gruberova, Stefania Kaluza and Frederic Kati; 7.30pm; May 18, 19, 22 (8pm)

ZURICH

CONCERT

Tonhalle Tel: 41-1-2063434
 ● Má Vlast: by Smetana. Performed by the London Classical Players with conductor Roger Norrington; 7.30pm; May 19
 OPERA
 Opernhaus Zürich Tel: 41-1-268 6666
 ● Ariadne auf Naxos: by R. Strauss. Conducted by Ralf Wolkert and performed by the Oper Zürich. Soloists include Gabriele Lechner, Edita Gruberova, Stefania Kaluza and Frederic Kati; 7.30pm; May 18, 19, 22 (8pm)

ZURICH

CONCERT

Tonhalle Tel: 41-1-2063434
 ● Má Vlast: by Smetana. Performed by the London Classical Players with conductor Roger Norrington; 7.30pm; May 19
 OPERA
 Opernhaus Zürich Tel: 41-1-268 6666
 ● Ariadne auf Naxos: by R. Strauss. Conducted by Ralf Wolkert and performed by the Oper Zürich. Soloists include Gabriele Lechner, Edita Gruberova, Stefania Kaluza and Frederic Kati; 7.30pm; May 18, 19, 22 (8pm)

ZURICH

CONCERT

Tonhalle Tel: 41-1-2063434
 ● Má Vlast: by Smetana. Performed by the London Classical Players with conductor Roger Norrington; 7.30pm; May 19
 OPERA
 Opernhaus Zürich Tel: 41-1-268 6666
 ● Ariadne auf Naxos: by R. Strauss. Conducted by Ralf Wolkert and performed by the Oper Zürich. Soloists include Gabriele Lechner, Edita Gruberova, Stefania Kaluza and Frederic Kati; 7.30pm; May 18, 19, 22 (8pm)

ZURICH

Investment strategies

3 out of 4 funds are in the top 25% of their sectors for their performance over 5 years. Performance is to 1st May 1996 and are on an offer-to-offer US Dollar basis, inclusive of reinvested income, net of withholding taxes (source: Microphil). Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of an investment and the income from it can go down as well as up (this may partly be a result of exchange rate fluctuations) and you may not get back the amount invested.

FT MANAGED FUNDS SERVICE

● FT Cityline Unit Trust Prices are available over the telephone. Call the FT Cityline Help Desk on (+44 171) 873 4378 for more details.

[illegible]

Σελίδα 15

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

WORLD STOCK MARKET				
Stock	High	Low	Net	Vol
Am. Ind. Gas	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Int'l. Corp.	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Oil & Gas	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Petroleum	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Shipbuilding	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Steel	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Tug & Barge	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Waterways	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Wire & Cable	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Zinc & Lead	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Iron & Steel	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Lumber	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Paper	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Textile	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Rubber	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Glass	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Cement	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Brick	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Coal	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Oil	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Gas	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Electric	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Telephone	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Radio	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. TV	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Computer	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Software	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Internet	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. E-commerce	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Online	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Digital	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Gaming	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Entertainment	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Media	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Publishing	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Advertising	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Marketing	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Consulting	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Research	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Development	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Construction	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Real Estate	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Insurance	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Banking	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Finance	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Investment	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Hedge	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Private Equity	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Venture Capital	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Angel	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Crowdfunder	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. P2P	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Blockchain	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Cryptocurrency	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Bitcoin	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Ethereum	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Litecoin	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Bitcoin Cash	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Bitcoin SV	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Bitcoin Gold	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Bitcoin Classic	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Bitcoin Unlimited	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Bitcoin Core	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Bitcoin Node	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Bitcoin Wallet	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Bitcoin Exchange	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Bitcoin Miner	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Bitcoin Pool	10 1/2	10 1/4	+1/4	100
Am. Bitcoin Service	10 1/2			

From automotive
to automation,
**Rockwell gets your
business moving**

Dear James Mary

	1995				1996				1997				1998				1999				2000				2001				2002				2003				2004				2005				2006				2007				2008				2009				2010				2011				2012				2013				2014				2015				2016				2017				2018				2019				2020				2021				2022				2023				2024				2025				2026				2027				2028				2029				2030				2031				2032				2033				2034				2035				2036				2037				2038				2039				2040				2041				2042				2043				2044				2045				2046				2047				2048				2049				2050				2051				2052				2053				2054				2055				2056				2057				2058				2059				2060				2061				2062				2063				2064				2065				2066				2067				2068				2069				2070				2071				2072				2073				2074				2075				2076				2077				2078				2079				2080				2081				2082				2083				2084				2085				2086				2087				2088			
--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--

MoDo
PULP, PAPER &
PAPERBOARD

FINANCIAL TIMES

Weekend May 11/May 12 1996

Fountain Forestry
SERVICES FOR PRIVATE AND CORPORATE
LANDOWNERS, UTILITIES, LOCAL AUTHORITIES
Tel: 01295 750000 Fax: 01295 750001
UNITED STATES
Tel: 001 603 4357428 Fax: 001 603 4357274

Profit-sharing deal gives London firm stable link to broker Rothschild in Dutch bank tie-up

By John Gapper in London

N.M. Rothschild & Sons, the private merchant bank, yesterday clarified its future strategy by setting up an alliance with ABN Amro, the largest Dutch bank, to underwrite and distribute shares internationally.

The profit-sharing deal will plug a gap created last year when the US investment bank Merrill Lynch bought the UK firm Smith New Court, in which Rothschild had a 25 per cent stake. It left Rothschild without a stable link to a broker.

Three directors of Rothschild have left the bank this year, prompting doubts over its strategy. Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, the chairman and chief shareholder, reiterated yesterday that the institution would retain its

independence from larger banks. "We are not dogmatic, but we do not want to be bought out by a clearing bank," Sir Evelyn said. Rothschild has reached this deal as part of an 18-month review of strategy that has also led to consolidation of other operations.

ABN Amro, which owns a network of broking firms, including the UK firm Hoare Covett, wants to gain work on international share issues, including privatisations. Rothschild has built up a business advising governments on privatisations.

ABN Amro has in the past expressed interest in buying a London merchant bank to reinforce its strength in investment banking. Mr Jan Kalff, chairman, said the link with Rothschild was a satisfactory substitute for an acquisition.

Mr Kalff said that if Rothschild changed its mind and said it was willing for ABN Amro to buy a stake, he would consider this seriously.

"If it was suggested by Rothschild, then that would definitely be a thing to investigate," he said. The deal will involve not only N.M. Rothschild & Sons, but also the French bank Rothschild et Cie Banque, which operates as a separate merchant bank in France. Mr Edouard de Rothschild will join the new entity's executive committee.

The arrangement will not affect Hoare Covett, the corporate broking arm of the firm in London.

Mr Peter Meinertzhagen, the chairman of Hoare Covett, said his firm would remain "ring-

fenced" from Rothschild in the London market.

The deal resolves one of the remaining uncertainties in the reshuffle of alliances of banks and brokers since the collapse of Baring's last year and the purchase of S.G. Warburg Group by Swiss Bank Corporation.

National Westminster Bank had talks with Rothschild over a similar arrangement, but these are thought to have foundered over NatWest's insistence on taking a stake in Rothschild.

Two directors of Rothschild working in corporate finance have left recently, and this week Mr John Bishop, its head of treasury and a leading figure in the London gold market, departed to join Union Bank of Switzerland.

See Lex

Lloyd's lifts offer to Names

Continued from Page 1

will double to about 10,000. Those expected to face the maximum £100,000 bill, after exhausting funds held at Lloyd's, will halve to fewer than 3,000.

Names will receive revised individual statements setting out what the plan means to them in mid-June. But final details will not be sent until after Lloyd's annual meeting on July 15, rather than later this month as previously expected. Names will have to accept the offer in August, taking the plan seriously close to the August 31 deadline when the market must demonstrate solvency to the DTI.

Lloyd's also faces problems with US securities regulators which are warning executives at the market. But Mr David Rowland, chairman, said: "We have no intention of proceeding without the US Names."

The settlement offer has been boosted by a £100m contribution from auditors involved in Lloyd's litigation, of which Ernst & Young is understood to be contributing about half.

That fell short of Names' hopes and Mr John Mays, chairman of the Merrett Names' Action Group, said it was "a fantastic bargain as far as auditors are concerned".

Loss-making Names also complained that Lloyd's agents were not increasing their proposed contribution of £200m.

Crazy Eddie faces jail for \$74m fraud

By Richard Tomkins in New York

It's all over for Crazy Eddie.

Seven years after being fingered for perpetrating one of the biggest stock market swindles in US corporate history, Eddie Antar has finally pleaded guilty. His hair now greying, 48-year-old Mr Antar was this week led away from a federal court in Newark, New Jersey, to serve his yet-to-be-determined prison sentence in the Federal Correctional Institution in Otisville, New York.

It was an ignominious end to a colourful career. Born in Brooklyn of Syrian Jewish ancestry, Mr Antar shot to fame in the 1980s as founder of Crazy Eddie, a chain of discount consumer electronics stores that became the biggest of its kind in the New York region.

The company was renowned for its infuriating but unforgettable television commercials in which a frenzied pitchman boasted of its completely "INSAAAAAANE" prices. Mr Antar was seen as a streetwise merchandising genius, and investors rushed to buy the company's stock.

But in the words of federal prosecutor Ma Faith Hoenberg: "Crazy Eddie wasn't crazy. He was crooked." While pretending to run a booming business, Mr Antar was shamelessly fiddling the books to boost the stock price so that he could sell his

shares in the company for more than they were worth.

One of his more picturesque manoeuvres was said to have involved flying out of the US with company cash strapped to his body and recycling the funds as company revenues to bamboozle Wall Street analysts. More prosaically, he simply exaggerated the numbers to show profits that did not exist.

The truth began to emerge after Mr Antar lost control of the company to a dissident shareholder group in 1987. Two years later, the company went into liquidation and the Securities and Exchange Commission filed charges against him for fraud.

The following year, facing arrest, he fled the country. Hiding a two-year manhunt, he led a life of luxury under an assumed name, and was brought to justice only after being extradited to the US from Israel in 1990. He has been in custody ever since.

Convicted in 1994, Mr Antar was sentenced to 12½ years in prison. But an appeal court ordered a retrial because questions were raised about the judge's impartiality. This week, Mr Antar struck a plea bargain with prosecutors, pleading guilty in return for a softer sentence.

He is expected to get six or seven years, plus fines of up to twice the money he made.

Prosecutors reckon Mr Antar made \$74m in illicit gains, of which they have recovered \$62m.

Sumitomo to cut lending and asset base

Continued from Page 1

move by Sumitomo, long seen as a trend-setter among the country's largest commercial banks, is likely to be widely followed.

The planned asset reduction should raise Sumitomo's capital adequacy ratio from 9 per cent to more than 10 per cent, under the Bank for International Settlements system of measurement, officials said.

This would still be below the levels of most leading US and European banks, but would be comfortably ahead of most Japanese lenders.

Last year Sumitomo became the first leading Japanese bank to declare a pre-tax loss, as a result of big write-offs of bad loans. This year other banks have followed suit and as a result, their capital adequacy ratios have fallen dangerously close to the BIS recommended minimum.

Most plans to repair their balance sheets through capital injections, but the Sumitomo move may force them to consider more retrenchment. The most likely first target for Sumitomo is a move to securitise some of its total ¥34,000bn loan portfolio.

Loans made by Japanese banks have been declining, partly as a result of weak domestic demand. The banks have also been adversely affected by the growing attractions for big borrowers of capital markets.

THE LEX COLUMN

Indian pickle

All in all, the markets have taken India's elections pretty calmly - surprisingly so, considering that the reform Congress party has been comprehensively hammered: that the most likely replacement will be a fragile coalition; and that this could well include the Janata Dal social justice party and its nominally communist allies. The stock market's relatively muted response is all the more remarkable given its recent strong run.

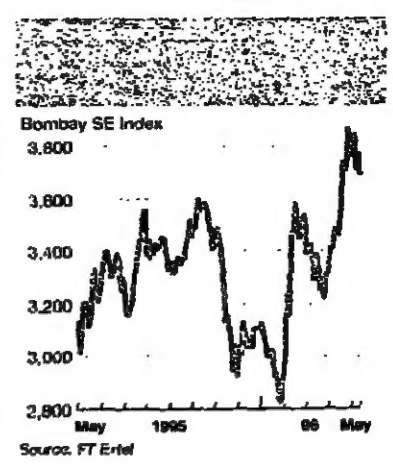
Certainly, it is not easy to imagine a worse result from the point of view of investors. Whatever happens, the new government is likely to be frail, and long-term reform - of labour regulation, agriculture and the sprawling public sector - looks firmly on the back-burner. It would be surprising, too, if the new government were to attack its inherited deficit with much vigour. On the other hand, even with the Congress party in power, progress in these areas has been snail-like; and even without it, India's economic fundamentals should be strong enough to justify valuations in the market.

The real question is whether any potential government is worrying enough to prevent these fundamentals from shining through - which looks unlikely. For one thing, even the most left-wing parties, when they have been in power in India's regional governments, have often been strikingly investor-friendly. For another - whatever happens - the odds are on a loosening of liquidity following the pre-election lightning: this would almost certainly boost the stock market. Investors should sit tight.

ABN Amro/Rothschild

ABN Amro's joint venture in equity capital markets with N.M. Rothschild could be an important step in the Dutch bank's bid to enter the emerging "bulge bracket" for global investment banks. ABN Amro has already bought brokers such as Alfred Berg in Sweden and Hoare Covett in the UK. And Rothschild's corporate finance expertise fills an obvious gap. Rothschild needed a new distribution partner, after the collapse of an arrangement with Smith New Court, acquired by Merrill Lynch last year.

But the new arrangement is unlikely to lead to something more binding. ABN Amro might well be interested in buying, but family-held Rothschild is fiercely independent. Still, since no capital is going into the joint venture, nothing is lost if it fails to live up to its promise. But if ABN Amro's aspirations to be a top international investment bank are to be real-



Source: FT Intel

Kvaerner paid for its 25 per cent stake, so this can be sold for a profit. That would take some pressure off Kvaerner's highly stretched post-Trafalgar balance sheet. Nonetheless, it is Trafalgar's accident-prone Canard line which is the most crucial disposal, since it will require substantial investment if it is retained. And expectations of a rapid sale have been dashed. Kvaerner's shares have fared well since the Trafalgar deal, thanks to chief executive Mr Erik Tonseth's reputation as an astute deal-maker; and it will be difficult properly to evaluate his latest price for some while. But senior management is diverted from Kvaerner to the sprawling Trafalgar empire at a time when existing businesses are struggling, there is considerable risk that Kvaerner will soon feel some growing pains.

Boards

What happens when two companies merge but neither chief executive wants to step aside? Make one executive deputy chairman. And what happens when one company demerges and a key executive is not chosen to be chief executive of either? Make him executive deputy chairman (EDC) of both.

The term EDC may not exactly roll off the tongue, but it is a splendid piece of fudge. Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance pioneered it as part of their merger. Mr Richard Gamble, Royal's chief executive, becomes chief executive of the combined entity, Mr Roger Taylor, Sun's chief executive, becomes EDC of the new venture with Mr Gamble reporting to him.

If Royal Sun Alliance had patented the idea it would now be collecting licensing fees. British Gas's demerger has sprouted two EDCs in the form of one man - Mr Philip Rogerson. BG's version has a twist: two new chief executives, Mr Roy Gardner and Mr David Varney, will not report to Mr Rogerson; nor will Mr Rogerson report to them. All three will report to Mr Richard Giordano, non-executive chairman designate of both groups.

Is this a good way to run a wheel stall? Probably not. Cable and Wireless demonstrated last year the danger of two men battling to determine a group's destiny and then there was not even an EDC to worry about - only a chief executive and a chairman. In BG's case, there is an added concern: what will Mr Rogerson do if his two companies, one of which will be the biggest customer of the other, have a conflict of interest? Fudge may work as a short-term fix, but boards would do better to use proper glue.

14 US troops killed in Anglo-American exercise

Continued from Page 1

carrier USS Enterprise and the marine command ship Salpan, and 27 British vessels led by the aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious and marine command ship HMS Fearless, the landing zone was extremely crowded.

As the exercise began at one minute past midnight yesterday,

landing craft crews were having to thread careful paths through the bay area to avoid collisions, and the clutter of helicopters in the darkness merged into a continuous roar.

As a surprise element for the landing force, the opposing defenders had tanks in the beach area, and this may have accounted for the presence of

the Cobra tank-busting aircraft.

No explanation has yet been offered by the Pentagon for the accident, but air traffic control in the landing zone at the time is bound to come under intense scrutiny. Some seaborne troops expressed concern before the air accident that the joint force had not prepared together sufficiently in advance of the operation.

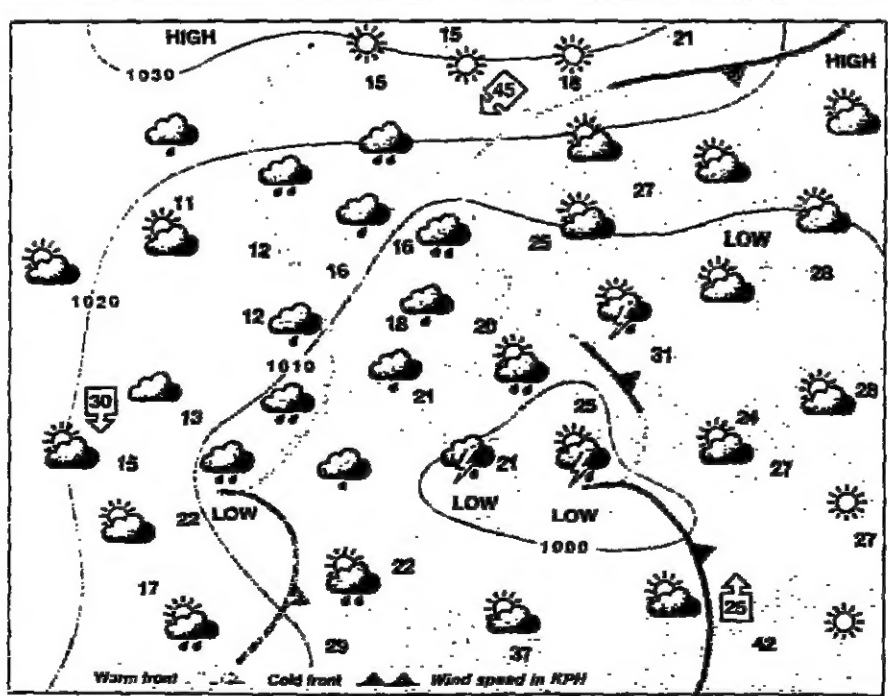
As soon as the accident had been reported, all air operations were suspended - including an assault by airborne troops which was scheduled to begin precisely as the crash happened and which was aborted as the first troops landed. Urgent planning is now under way to put the ambitious exercise programme back on track.

Europe today

Northern Britain, France, Germany and western Poland will be cloudy and wet. Eastern Spain will have very heavy rain. However, the extreme west of the continent, especially western France, Portugal and southern England, will have frequent sunny spells. Most of western Europe will remain cool, with afternoon temperatures below 15C near the coast of north-western France and in the Benelux. Eastern Europe will be warm with maximum temperatures of more than 25C. Turkey and western Russia will be sunny. South-eastern Europe will have sunny spells and thundery showers, and the Balkans and Italy will be wet.

Five-day forecast

Central and south-eastern Europe will be cloudy and wet. Western parts of the continent will become dry and slightly warmer, and western France and most of Spain will have widespread sunshine. The north and west of the UK will be cloudy with rain.



Source: 12 GFT. Temperatures maximum for day. Forecasts by Meteo Consult of the Netherlands

TODAY'S TEMPERATURES

	Maximum	Minimum
Abu Dhabi	30	25
Algiers	28	22
Amsterdam	18	12
Athens	28	22
Bahia	28	22
Bangkok	30	25
Bombay	30	25
Buenos Aires	28	22
Calcutta	30	25
Cairo	30	25
Chennai	30	25
Columbo	30	25
Dhaka	30	25
Delhi	30	25
Dubai	30	25
Frankfurt	18	12
Geneva	18	12
Hong Kong	28	22
London	18	12
Los Angeles	28	22
Madrid	28	22
Mumbai	30	25
New Delhi	30	25
New York	28	22
Paris	18	12
Rangoon	30	25
Rio de Janeiro	28	22
Singapore	30	25
Taipei	30	25
Tokyo	28	22
Winnipeg	18	12
Zurich	18	12

Your frequent flyer program: Lufthansa Miles & More.

Lufthansa

Global banking made in Germany.

The world is shrinking. Whereas your scope is growing. Theoretically. And practically?

Whenever you wish to make more than just a small move, include the WestLB in your plans. We appreciate global thinking and, as one of Europe's leading banks, we have both the experience and the potential to achieve even exceptional goals - with you. Established as a German wholesale bank, we

offer you all services from one source, ready to measure, reliable and, if you like, worldwide.

After all, what could be closer to your wishes than a bank with a perspective as broad as your own?

Are you looking for a partner who can help you achieve your goals? Call our German branch in London on 01 251 211 9443 or 01 251 211 9443 to request a list of our worldwide network straight away.

WestLB